

XX.

KING HENRY V.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

King HENRY the Fifth.
 Duke of GLOSTER, { *Brothers to the King.*
 Duke of BEDFORD, {
 Duke of EXETER, *Uncle to the King.*
 Duke of YORK, *Cousin to the King.*
 Earls of SALISBURY, WESTMORELAND, and WARWICK.
 Archbishop of CANTERBURY.
 Bishop of ELY.
 Earl of CAMBRIDGE, {
 Lord SCROOP, { *Conspirators against the King.*
 Sir THOMAS GREY, {
 Sir THOMAS ERPINGHAM, GOWER, FLEELLEN, MAC-
 MORRIS, JAMY, *Officers in King Henry's Army.*
 BATES, COURT, WILLIAMS, *Soldiers in the same.*
 NYM, BARDOLPH, PISTOL, *formerly Servants to Fal-
 staff, now Soldiers in the same.*

Boy, *Servant to them.* A Herald. Chorus.
 CHARLES, the Sixth, *King of France.*
 LEWIS, the *Dauphin.*
 Dukes of BURGUNDY, ORLEANS, and BOURBON.
 The Constable of France.
 RAMBURES, and GRANDPRE, *French Lords.*
 Governor of Harfleur.
 MONTJOY, a *French Herald.*
 Ambassadors to the King of England.
 ISABEL, *Queen of France.*
 KATHARINE, *Daughter of Charles and Isabel.*
 ALICE, a *Lady attending on the Princess Katharine.*
 QUICKLY, *Pistol's Wife, an Hostess.*
 Lords, Ladies, Officers, *French and English Soldiers,*
 Messengers, and Attendants.

The SCENE — at the Beginning of the Play, lies in England, but afterwards wholly in France.

Enter Chorus.

O, for a muse of fire, that would ascend
 The brightest heaven of invention! ¹⁾
 A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,
 And monarchs to behold ²⁾ the swelling scene!
 Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,
 Assume the port of Mars; and, at his heels,
 Leash'd in like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire,
 Crouch for employment. But pardon, gentles all,
 The flat unraised spirit, that hath dar'd,
 On this unworthy scaffold, to bring forth
 So great an object: Can this cockpit hold
 The vasty fields of France? or may we cram
 Within this wooden O, ³⁾ the very casques, ⁴⁾
 That did affright the air at Agincourt?
 O, pardon! since a crooked figure may
 Attest, in little place, a million;
 And let us, ciphers to this great accompt,
 On your imaginary forces ⁵⁾ work:
 Suppose, within the girdle of these walls
 Are now confin'd two mighty monarchies,
 Whose high upreared and abutting fronts
 The perilous, narrow ocean parts asunder.
 Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;
 Into a thousand parts divide one man,
 And make imaginary puissance: ⁶⁾
 Think, when we talk of horses, that you see them
 Printing their proud hoofs i'the receiving earth:
 For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our kings,
 Carry them here and there; jumping o'er times;
 Turning the accomplishment of many years
 Into an hour-glass; For the which supply,
 Admit me chorus to this history;
 Who, prologue-like, your humble patience pray,
 Gently to hear, kindly to judge, our play.

ACT I.

SCENE I. London. *An Ante-chamber in the King's Palace.*

Enter the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, ⁷⁾ and Bishop of ELY. ⁸⁾

Cant. My lord, I'll tell you, — that self bill is urg'd,
 Which, in the eleventh year o'the last king's reign,
 Was like, and had indeed against us pass'd,
 But that the scrambling and unquiet time
 Did push it out of further question.

Ely. But how, my lord, shall we resist it now?

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

Ely. This would drink deep.

Cant. 'Twould drink the cup and all.

Ely. But what prevention?

Cant. The king is full of grace, and fair regard.

Ely. And a true lover of the holy church.

Cant. The courses of his youth promis'd it not.
 The breath no sooner left his father's body,
 But that his wildness, mortified in him,
 Seem'd to die too: yea, at that very moment,
 Consideration like an angel came,
 And whipp'd the offending Adam out of him;
 Leaving his body as a paradise,

To envelop and contain celestial spirits.
Never was such a sudden scholar made:
Never came reformation in a flood,⁹⁾
With such a heady current, scouring faults;
Nor never hydra-headed wilfulness
So soon did lose his seat, and all at once,
As in this king.

Ely. We are blessed in the change.

Cant. Hear him but reason in divinity,
And, all-admiring, with an inward wish
You would desire, the king were made a prelate:
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,
You would say, — it hath been all-in-all his study:
List his discourse of war, and you shall hear
A fearful battle render'd you in music:

Turn him to any cause of policy,
The Gordian knot of it he will unloose,
Familiar as his garter; that, when he speaks,
The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,¹⁰⁾
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,
To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences;
So that the art and practice part of life¹¹⁾
Must be the mistress to this theoric:

Which is a wonder, how his grace should glean it,
Since his addiction was to courses vain:

His companies¹²⁾ unletter'd, rude, and shallow;
His hours fill'd up with riots, banquets, sports;
And never noted in him any study,
Any retirement, any sequestration
From open haunts and popularity.¹³⁾

Ely. The strawberry grows underneath the nettle:
And wholesome berries thrive and ripen best,
Neighbour'd by fruit of baser quality:

And so the prince obscur'd his contemplation
Under the veil of wildness; which, no doubt,
Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night,
Unseen, yet crevice in his faculty.¹⁴⁾

Cant. It must be so; for miracles are ceas'd;
And therefore we must needs admit the means,
How things are perfected.

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

Cant. He seems indifferent;
Or, rather, swaying more upon our part,
Than cherishing the exhibitors against us:
For I have made an offer to his majesty, —
Upon our spiritual convocation;

And in regard of causes now in hand,
Which I have open'd to his grace at large,
As touching France, — to give a greater sum
Than ever at one time the clergy yet
Did to his predecessors part withal.

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

Cant. With good acceptance of his majesty;
Save, that there was not time enough to hear
(As, I perceiv'd, his grace would fain have done,)
The several, and unhidden passages,¹⁵⁾

Of his true titles to some certain dukedoms:
And, generally, to the crown and seat of France,
Deriv'd from Edward, his great grandfather.

Ely. What was the impediment that broke this
off?

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

Ely. It is.

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

Ely. I'll wait upon you; and I long to hear it.

[*Exeunt.*]

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SCENE II.

The same. A Room of State in the same.

Enter King HENRY, GLOSTER, BEDFORD, EXETER,
WARWICK, WESTMORELAND, and Attendants.

K. Hen. Where is my gracious lord of Canterbury?
Exe. Not here in presence.

K. Hen. Send for him, good uncle.

West. Shall we call in the ambassador, my liege?

K. Hen. Not yet, my cousin; we would be resolv'd,
Before we hear him, of some things of weight,
That task¹⁶⁾ our thoughts, concerning us and France.

Enter the Archbishop of CANTERBURY, and
Bishop of ELY.

Cant. God, and his angels, guard your sacred throne,
And make you long become it!

K. Hen. Sure, we thank you.
My learned lord, we pray you to proceed;
And justly and religiously unfold,
Why the law Salique, that they have in France,
Or should, or should not, bar us in our claim.

And God forbid, my dear and faithful lord,
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading,
Or nicely charge your understanding soul¹⁷⁾
With opening titles miscreate,¹⁸⁾ whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth;

For God doth know, how many, now in health,
Shall drop their blood in approbation¹⁹⁾
Of what your reverence shall incite us to:

Therefore take heed how you impawn our person,
How you awake the sleeping sword of war;
We charge you in the name of God, take heed:

For never two such kingdoms did contend,
Without much fall of blood; whose guiltless drops
Are every one a woe, a sore complaint,
'Gainst him, whose wrongs give edge unto the swords
That make such waste in brief mortality.

Under this conjuration, speak, my lord:
And we will hear, note, and believe in heart,
That what you speak is in your conscience wash'd
As pure as sin with baptism.

Cant. Then hear me, gracious sovereign, — and
you peers,
That owe your lives, your faith, and services,
To this imperial throne; — There is no bar
To make against your highness' claim to France,
But this, which they produce from Pharamond, —
In terram Salicam mulieres ne succedant,
No woman shall succeed in Salique land:

Which Salique land the French unjustly gloze,²⁰⁾
To be the realm of France, and Pharamond
The founder of this law and female bar.

Yet their own authors faithfully affirm,
That the land Salique lies in Germany,
Between the floods of Sala and of Elbe:

Where Charles the great, having subdued the Saxons,
There left behind and settled certain French;
Who, holding in disdain the German women,
For some dishonest manners of their life,
Establish'd there this law, — to wit, no female
Should be inheritrix in Salique land;

Which Salique, as I said, twixt Elbe and Sala,
Is at this day in Germany call'd — Meisen.
Thus doth it well appear, the Salique law
Was not devised for the realm of France;
Nor did the French possess the Salique land
Until four hundred one and twenty years
After defunction of king Pharamond,
Idly suppos'd the founder of this law;
Who died within the year of our redemption
Four hundred twenty-six; and Charles the great

Subdued the Saxons, and did seat the French
Beyond the river Sala, in the year
Eight hundred five. Besides, their writers say,
King Pepin, which deposed Childerick,
Did, as heir general, being descended
Of Blithild, which was daughter to king Clothair,
Make claim and title to the crown of France.

Hugh Capet also, — that usurp'd the crown
Of Charles the duke of Lorain, sole heir male
Of the true line and stock of Charles the great, —
To fine his title with some show of truth,²¹⁾
(Though, in pure truth, it was corrupt and naught,) —
Convey'd himself²²⁾ as heir to the lady Lingare,
Daughter to Charlemain, who was the son
To Lewis the emperor, and Lewis the son
Of Charles the great. Also king Lewis the tenth,
Who was sole heir to the usurper Capet,
Could not keep quiet in his conscience,
Wearing the crown of France, till satisfied
That fair queen Isabel, his grandmother,
Was lineal of the lady Ermengare,
Daughter to Charles the foresaid duke of Lorain:
By the which marriage, the line of Charles the great
Was re-united to the crown of France.

So that, as clear as is the summer's sun,
King Pepin's title, and Hugh Capet's claim,
King Lewis his satisfaction, all appear
To hold in right and title of the female:

So do the kings of France unto this day;
Howbeit they would hold up this Salique law,
To bar your highness claiming from the female;
And rather choose to hide them in a net,
Than amply to imbure their crooked titles²³⁾
Usurp'd from you and your progenitors.

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

Cant. The sin upon my head, dread sovereign!
For in the book of Numbers is it writ, —
When the son dies, let the inheritance
Descend unto the daughter. Gracious lord,
Stand for your own; unwind your bloody flag;
Look back upon your mighty ancestors:
Go, my dread lord, to your great grandsire's tomb,
From whom you claim; invoke his warlike spirit,
And your great uncle's, Edward the black prince;
Who on the French ground play'd a tragedy,
Making defeat on the full power of France;
Whiles his most mighty father on a hill
Stood smiling, to behold his lion's whelp
Forge in blood of French nobility.
O noble English, that could entertain
With half their forces the full pride of France;
And let another half stand laughing by,
All out of work, and cold for action!

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

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

West. They know, your grace hath cause, and
means, and might;

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

Cant. O, let their bodies follow, my dear liege,
With blood, and sword, and fire, to win your right:
In aid whereof, we of the spirituality

Will raise your highness such a mighty sum,
As never did the clergy at one time,
Bring in to any of your ancestors.

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

Cant. They of those marches,²⁴⁾ gracious sovereign,
Shall be a wall sufficient to defend
Our inland from the pilfering borderers.

K. Hen. We do not mean the coursing snatchers only,
But fear the main intendment²⁵⁾ of the Scot,
Who hath been still a giddy neighbour to us;

For you shall read, that my great grandfather
Never went with his forces into France,
But that the Scot on his unfurnish'd kingdom
Came pouring, like the tide into a breach,
With ample and brim fulness of his force;
Galling the gleaned land with hot essays;
Girding with grievous siege, castles and towns;
That England, being empty of defence,
Hath shook, and trembled at the ill-neighbourhood.²⁶⁾

Cant. She hath been then more fear'd²⁷⁾ than
harm'd, my liege;

For hear her but exempl'd by herself, —
When all her chivalry hath been in France,
And she a mourning widow of her nobles,
She hath herself not only well defended,
But taken, and impounded as a stray,
The king of Scots; whom she did send to France,
To fill king Edward's fame with prisoner kings;
And make your chronicle as rich with praise,
As is the ooze and bottom of the sea
With sunken wreck and sumless treasures.

West. But there's a saying, very old and true, —
If that you will France win,
Then with Scotland first begin:

For once the eagle England being in prey,
To her unguarded nest the weasel Scot
Comes sneaking, and so sucks her princely eggs;
Playing the mouse, in absence of the cat,
To spoil and havock more than she can eat.

Exe. It follows then, the cat must stay at home:
Yet that is but a curs'd necessity;
Since we have locks to safeguard necessities,
And pretty traps to catch the petty thieves.
While that the armed hand doth fight abroad,
The advised head defends itself at home:
For government, though high, and low, and lower,
Put into parts, doth keep in one consent;²⁸⁾
Congruing in a full and natural close,
Like music.

Cant. True: therefore doth heaven divide
The state of man in divers functions,
Setting endeavour in continual motion;
To which is fixed, as an aim or butt,
Obedience:²⁹⁾ for so work the honey bees;
Creatures, that, by a rule in nature, teach
The act of order to a peopled kingdom.
They have a king, and officers of sorts;³⁰⁾
Where some, like magistrates, correct at home;
Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad;
Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds;
Which pillage they with merry march bring home
To the tent-royal of their emperor:
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons building roofs of gold;
The civil³¹⁾ citizens kneading up the honey;
The poor mechanic porters crowding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate;
The sad-eyed justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering o'er to éxecutors³²⁾ pale

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The lazy yawning drone. I this infer, —
That many things, having full reference
To one conceit, may work contrariwise;
As many arrows, loosed several ways,
Fly to one mark;
As many several ways meet in one town;
As many fresh streams run in one self sea;
As many lines close in the dial's center;
So may a thousand actions, once afoot,
End in one purpose, and be all well borne
Without defeat. Therefore to France, my liege,
Divide your happy England into four;
Whereof take you one quarter into France,
And you withal shall make all Gallia shake.
If we, with thrice that power left at home,
Cannot defend our own door from the dog,
Let us be worried; and our nation lose
The name of hardiness, and policy.

K. Hen. Call in the messengers sent from the Dauphin.
[Exit an Attendant. The King ascends his throne.]
Now are we well resolv'd; and, — by God's help;
And yours, the noble sinews of our power, —
France being ours, we'll bend it to our awe,
Or break it all to pieces: Or there we'll sit,
Ruling, in large and ample empery, ³³)
O'er France, and all her almost kingly dukedoms:
Or lay these bones in an unworthy urn,
Tombless, with no remembrance over them:
Either our history shall, with full mouth,
Speak freely of our acts; or else our grave,
Like Turkish mute, shall have a tongueless mouth,
Not worship'd with a waxen epitaph. ³⁴)

Enter Ambassadors of France.

Now are we well prepar'd to know the pleasure
Of our fair cousin Dauphin; for, we hear,
Your greeting is from him, not from the king.
Amb. May it please your majesty, to give us leave
Freely to render what we have in charge;
Or shall we sparingly show you far off
The Dauphin's meaning, and our embassy?
K. Hen. We are no tyrant, but a Christian king;
Unto whose grace our passion is as subject,
As are our wretches fetter'd in our prisons:
Therefore, with frank and with uncurbed plainness
Tell us the Dauphin's mind.

Amb. Thus then, in few.
Your highness, lately sending into France,
Did claim some certain dukedoms, in the right
Of your great predecessor, king Edward the third.
In answer of which claim, the prince our master
Says, — that you savour too much of your youth;
And bids you be advis'd, there's nought in France,
That can be with a nimble galliard won; ³⁵)
You cannot revel into dukedoms there:
He therefore sends you, meeter for your spirit,
This tun of treasure; and, in lieu of this,
Desires you, let the dukedoms, that you claim,
Hear no more of you. This the Dauphin speaks.

K. Hen. What treasure, uncle?
Exc. Tennis-balls, my liege.
K. Hen. We are glad, the Dauphin is so pleasant
with us;

His present, and your pains, we thank you for;
When we have match'd our rackets to these balls,
We will, in France, by God's grace, play a set,
Shall strike his father's crown into the hazard:
Tell him, he hath made a match with such a wrangler,
That all the courts of France will be disturb'd
With chaces. ³⁶) And we understand him well,
How he comes o'er us with our wilder days,
Not measuring what use we made of them.
We never valu'd this poor seat of England; ³⁷)

KH.

And therefore, living hence, ³⁸) did give ourself
To barbarous license; As 'tis ever common,
That men are merriest when they are from home.
But tell the Dauphin, — I will keep my state;
Be like a king, and show my sail of greatness,
When I do rouse me in my throne of France:
For that I have laid by ³⁹) my majesty,
And plodded like a man for working-days;
But I will rise there with so full a glory,
That I will dazzle all the eyes of France,
Yea, strike the Dauphin blind to look on us.
And tell the pleasant prince, — this mock of his
Hath turn'd his balls to gun-stones; ⁴⁰) and his soul
Shall stand sore charged for the wasteful vengeance
That shall fly with them: for many a thousand
widows

Shall this his mock mock out of their dear husbands;
Mock mothers from their sons, mock castles down:
And some are yet ungotten, and unborn,
That shall have cause to curse the Dauphin's scorn.
But this lies all within the will of God,
To whom I do appeal; And in whose name,
Tell you the Dauphin, I am coming on,
To venge me as I may, and to put forth
My rightful hand in a well-hallow'd cause,
So, get you hence in peace; and tell the Dauphin,
His jest will savour but of shallow wit,
When thousands weep, more than did laugh at it. —
Convey them with safe conduct. — Fare you well.
[Exit Ambassadors.]

Exc. This was a merry message.
K. Hen. We hope to make the sender blush at it.
[Descends from his throne.]

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

ACT II.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Now all the youth of England are on fire,
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies;
Now thrive the armourers, and honour's thought
Reigns solely in the breast of every man:
They sell the pasture now to buy the horse;
Following the mirror of all Christian kings,
With winged heels, as English Mercuries.
For now sits Expectation in the air;
And hides a sword, from hilts unto the point,
With crowns imperial, crowns, and coronets,
Promis'd to Harry, and his followers.
The French, advis'd by good intelligence
Of this most dreadful preparation,
Shake in their fear; and with pale policy
Seek to divert the English purposes.
O England! — model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart, —
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee do,
Were all thy children kind and natural!
But see thy fault! France hath in thee found out
A nest of hollow bosoms, which he fills
With treacherous crowns; and three corrupted men, —

One, Richard earl of Cambridge; and the second,
Henry lord Scroop of Masham; and the third,
Sir Thomas Grey knight of Northumberland, —
Have, for the gilt of France, ¹) (O guilt, indeed!)
Confirm'd conspiracy with fearful France;
And by their hands this grace of kings must die,
(If hell and treason hold their promises.)
Ere he take ship for France, and in Southampton.
Linger your patience on; and well digest
The abuse of distance, while we force a play. ²)
The sum is paid; the traitors are agreed;
The king is set from London; and the scene
Is now transported, gentles, to Southampton:
There is the playhouse now, there must you sit:
And thence to France shall we convey you safe,
And bring you back, charming the narrow seas
To give you gentle pass; for, if we may,
We'll not offend one stomach with our play.
But, till the king come forth, and not till then,
Unto Southampton do we shift our scene. [Exit.]

SCENE I.

The same. Eastcheap.

Enter Nym and BARDOLPH.

Bard. Well met, Corporal Nym.
Nym. Good morrow, lieutenant Bardolph.
Bard. What, are ancient Pistol and your friends
yet?

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

Bard. I will bestow a breakfast, to make you
friends; and we'll be all three sworn brothers to
France; ³) let it be so, good corporal Nym.

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

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

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

Enter PISTOL and Mrs. QUICKLY.

Bard. Here comes ancient Pistol, and his wife: —
good corporal, be patient here. — How now, mine
host Pistol?

Pist. Base tike, call'st thou me — host?
Now, by this hand I swear, I scorn the term;
Nor shall my Nell keep lodgers.

Quick. No, by my troth, not long: for we cannot
lodge and board a dozen or fourteen gentlewomen,
that live honestly by the prick of their needles,
but it will be thought we keep a bawdy-house
straight. [Nym draws his sword.] O, well-a-day, Lady,
if he be not drawn now! ⁴) O Lord! here's cor-
poral Nym's — now shall we have wilful adultery
and murder committed. Good lieutenant Bardolph, —
good corporal, offer nothing here.

Nym. Pish!
Pist. Pish for thee, Iceland dog! thou prick-eared
cur of Iceland.

Quick. Good corporal Nym, show the valour of a
man, and put up thy sword.

Nym. Will you shog off? I would have you *solus*.
[Sheathing his sword.]

Pist. *Solus*, egregious dog? O viper vile!
The *solus* in thy most marvellous face;
The *solus* in thy teeth, and in thy throat,
And in thy hateful lungs, yea, in thy maw, perdy;
And, which is worse, within thy nasty mouth!
I do retort the *solus* in thy bowels;
For I can take, and Pistol's cock is up,
And flashing fire will follow.

Nym. I am not Barbason; ⁵) you cannot conjure
me. I have an humour to knock you indifferently
well: If you grow foul with me, Pistol, I will scour
you with my rapier, as I may, in fair terms: if you
would walk off, I would prick your guts a little,
in good terms, as I may; and that's the humour of it.

Pist. O braggard vile, and damned furious wight!
The grave doth gape, and doting death is near;
Therefore exhale. ⁶) [Pistol and Nym draw.]

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

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

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

Pist. *Coupe le gorge*, that's the word? — I thee
defy again.

O hound of Crete, think'st thou my spouse to get?
No; to the spital go,
And from the powdering tub of infamy
Fetch forth the Lazar kite of Cressid's kind,
Doll Tear-sheet she by name, and her espouse:
I have, and I will hold, the *quondam* Quickly
For the only she; and — *Pauca*, there's enough.

Enter the Boy.

Boy. Mine host Pistol, you must come to my mas-
ter, — and you, hostess; — he is very sick, and
would to bed. — Good Bardolph, put thy nose between
his sheets, and do the office of a warming-pan:
'faith, he's very ill.

Bard. Away, you rogue.

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

[Exit Mrs. QUICKLY and Boy.]

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

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

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

Pist. Base is the slave that pays.

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

Pist. As manhood shall compound; Push home.

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

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

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

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

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

KH.

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

Nym. I shall have my noble?

Pist. In cash most justly paid.

Nym. Well then, that's the humour of it.

Re-enter Mrs. QUICKLY.

Quick. As ever you came of women, come in quickly to sir John: Ah, poor heart! he is so shaken of a burning quotidian tertian, that it is most lamentable to behold. Sweet men, come to him.

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

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

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

Pist. Let us condole the knight; for, lambkins, we will live. ⁷⁾

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Southampton. *A Council-Chamber.*

Enter EXETER, BEDFORD, and WESTMORELAND.

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

Exe. They shall be apprehended by and by.

West. How smooth and even they do bear themselves!

As if allegiance in their bosoms sat,
Crowned with faith, and constant loyalty.

Bed. The king hath note of all that they intend,
By interception which they dream not of.

Exe. Nay, but the man that was his bedfellow,
Whom he hath cloy'd and grac'd with princely favours, —

That he should, for a foreign purse, so sell
His sovereign's life to death and treachery!

Trumpet sounds. Enter King HENRY, SCROOP, CAMBRIDGE, GREY, Lords, and Attendants.

K. Hen. Now sits the wind fair, and we will aboard.
My lord of Cambridge, — and my kind lord of Masham, —

And you, my gentle knight, — — give me your thoughts:

Think you not, that the powers we bear with us,
Will cut their passage through the force of France;
Doing the execution, and the act,
For which we have in head assembled them? ⁸⁾

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

K. Hen. I doubt not that: since we are well persuaded,

We carry not a heart with us from hence,
That grows not in a fair consent with ours;
Nor leave not one behind, that doth not wish
Success and conquest to attend on us.

Cam. Never was monarch better fear'd, and lov'd,
Than is your majesty; there's not, I think, a subject,
That sits in heart-grief and uneasiness
Under the sweet shade of your government.

Grey. Even those, that were your father's enemies,
Have steep'd their galls in honey; and do serve you
With hearts create ⁹⁾ of duty and of zeal.

K. Hen. We therefore have great cause of thankfulness;

And shall forget the office of our hand,
Sooner than quittance of desert and merit,
According to the weight and worthiness.

Scroop. So service shall with steeled sinews toil;

And labour shall refresh itself with hope,
To do your grace incessant services.

K. Hen. We judge no less. — Uncle of Exeter,
Enlarge the man committed yesterday,

That rail'd against our person: we consider,
It was excess of wine that set him on;

And, on his more advice, ¹⁰⁾ we pardon him.

Scroop. That's mercy, but too much security:
Let him be punish'd, sovereign; lest example

Breed, by his sufferance, more of such a kind.

K. Hen. O, let us yet be merciful.

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

Grey. Sir, you show great mercy, if you give him life,

After the taste of much correction.

K. Hen. Alas, your too much love and care of me
Are heavy orisons 'gainst this poor wretch.

If little faults, proceeding on distemper, ¹¹⁾
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our

eye, ¹²⁾

When capital crimes, chew'd, swallow'd, and digested,
Appear before us? — We'll yet enlarge that man,

Though Cambridge, Scroop, and Grey, — in their dear care,

And tender preservation of our person, —
Would have him punish'd. And now to our French

causes;

Who are the late commissioners? ¹³⁾

Cam. I one, my lord;

Your highness bade me ask for it to-day.

Scroop. So did you me, my liege.

Grey. And me, my royal sovereign.

K. Hen. Then, Richard earl of Cambridge, there is yours: —

There yours, lord Scroop of Marsham; — and, sir knight,

Grey of Northumberland, this same is yours: —

Read them; and know, I know your worthiness. —
My lord of Westmoreland, — and uncle Exeter, —

We will aboard to-night. — Why, how now, gentlemen?
What see you in those papers, that you lose

So much complexion? — look ye, how they change!
Their cheeks are paper. — Why, what read you there,

That hath so cowarded and chas'd your blood
Out of appearance?

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

Grey. Scroop. To which we all appeal.

K. Hen. The mercy, that was quick ¹⁴⁾ in us but late,
By your own counsel is suppress'd and kill'd:

You must not dare, for shame, to talk of mercy;
For your own reasons turn into your bosoms,

As dogs upon their masters, worrying them. —
See you, my princes, and my noble peers,

These English monsters! My lord of Cambridge here, —

You know, how apt our love was, to accord
To furnish him with all appertinents

Belonging to his honour; and this man
Hath, for a few light crowns, lightly conspir'd,

And sworn unto the practices of France,
To kill us here in Hampton: to the which,

This knight, no less for bounty bound to us
Than Cambridge is, — hath likewise sworn. — But O!

What shall I say to thee, lord Scroop; thou cruel,
Ingrateful, savage, and inhuman creature!

Thou that didst bear the key of all my counsels,
That knew'st the very bottom of my soul,

That almost might'st have coin'd me into gold,
Would'st thou have practis'd on me for thy use?

May it be possible, that foreign hire
Could out of thee extract one spark of evil,

That might annoy my finger? 'tis so strange,

HK.

That, though the truth of it stands off as gross
As black from white, ¹⁵⁾ my eye will scarcely see it.
Treason, and murder, ever kept together,
As two yoke-devils sworn to either's purpose,

Working so grossly ¹⁶⁾ in a natural cause,
That admiration did not whoop at them:

But thou, 'gainst all proportion, didst bring in
Wonder, to wait on treason, and on murder:

And whatsoever cunning fiend it was,
That wrought upon thee so preposterously,

Hath got the voice in hell for excellence:
And other devils, that suggest by treasons,

Do botch and bungle up damnation
With patches, colours, and with forms being fetch'd

From glistening semblances of piety:
But he, that temper'd thee, ¹⁷⁾ bade thee stand up,

Gave thee no instance why thou should'st do treason,
Unless to dub thee with the name of traitor.

If that same daemon, that hath gull'd thee thus,
Should with his lion gait walk the whole world,

He might return to vasty Tartar ¹⁸⁾ back,
And tell the legions — I can never win

A soul so easy as that Englishman's.
O, how hast thou with jealousy infected

The sweetness of affiance! ¹⁹⁾ Show men dutiful?
Why, so didst thou: Seem they grave and learned?

Why, so didst thou: Come they of noble family?
Why, so didst thou: Seem they religious?

Why, so didst thou: Or are they spare in diet;
Free from gross passion, or of mirth, or anger;

Constant in spirit, not swerving with the blood;
Garnish'd and deck'd in modest complement; ²⁰⁾

Not working with the eye, without the ear, ²¹⁾
And, but in purged judgment, trusting neither?

Such, and so finely bolted, ²²⁾ didst thou seem:
And thus thy fall hath left a kind of blot,

To mark the full-fraught man, and best indued,
With some suspicion. I will weep for thee;

For this revolt of thine, methinks, is like
Another fall of man. — Their faults are open,

Arrest them to the answer of the law; —
And God acquit them of their practices!

Exe. I arrest thee of high treason, by the name
of Richard earl of Cambridge.

I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of
Henry lord Scroop of Masham.

I arrest thee of high treason, by the name of
Thomas Grey, knight of Northumberland.

Scroop. Our purposes God justly hath discover'd;
And I repent my fault, more than my death;

Which I beseech your highness to forgive,
Although my body pay the price of it.

Cam. For me, — the gold of France did not seduce;

Although I did admit it as a motive,
The sooner to effect what I intended:

But God be thanked for prevention;
Which I in sufferance heartily will rejoice, ²³⁾

Beseeching God, and you, to pardon me.

Grey. Never did faithful subject more rejoice
At the discovery of most dangerous treason,

Than I do at this hour joy o'er myself,
Prevented from a damned enterprise:

My fault, but not my body, pardon, sovereign.

K. Hen. God quit you in his mercy! Hear your sentence.

You have conspir'd against our royal person,
Join'd with an enemy proclaim'd, and from his coffers

Receiv'd the golden earnest of our death;
Wherein you would have sold your king to slaughter,

His princes and his peers to servitude,
His subjects to oppression and contempt,

And his whole kingdom unto desolation. ²⁴⁾

Touching our person, seek we no revenge;
But we our kingdom's safety must so tender,
Whose ruin you three sought, that to her laws
We do deliver you. Get you therefore hence,
Poor miserable wretches, to your death:
The taste whereof, God, of his mercy, give you
Patience to endure, and true repentance
Of all your dear offences! — Bear them hence.

[*Exeunt Conspirators, guarded.*]

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

We doubt not of a fair and lucky war;
Since God so graciously hath brought to light

This dangerous treason, lurking in our way,
To hinder our beginnings, we doubt not now,

But every rub is smoothed on our way.
Then, forth, dear countrymen; let us deliver

Our puissance into the hand of God,
Putting it straight in expedition.

Cheerly to sea; the signs of war advance:
No king of England, if not king of France. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

London. *Mrs. Quickly's House in Eastcheap.*

Enter PISTOL, MRS. QUICKLY, NYM, BARDOLPH, and Boy.

Quick. Pr'ythee, honey-sweet husband, let me bring thee to Staines. ²⁵⁾

Pist. No; for my manly heart doth yearn. —
Bardolph, be blithe; — Nym, rouse thy vaunting veins;

Boy, bristle thy courage up; for Falstaff he is dead,
And we must yearn therefore.

Bard. 'Would, I were with him, wheresome'er he is,
either in heaven, or in hell!

Quick. Nay, sure, he's not in hell; he's in Arthur's bosom, if ever man went to Arthur's bosom. 'A made a finer end, and went away, an it had been any christom child; ²⁶⁾ 'a parted even just between twelve and one, e'en at turning o'the tide: ²⁷⁾ for after I saw him fumble with the sheets, and play with flowers, and smile upon his fingers' ends, I knew there was but one way; for his nose was as sharp as a pen, and 'a babbled of green fields.

How now, sir John? quoth I: what, man! be of good cheer. So 'a cried out — God, God, God! three or four times: now I, to comfort him, bid him, 'a should not think of God; I hoped, there was no need to trouble himself with any such thoughts yet: So, 'a bade me lay more clothes on his feet: I put my hand into the bed, and felt them, and they were as cold as any stone; then I felt to his knees, and so upward, and upward, and all was as cold as any stone. ²⁸⁾

Nym. They say, he cryed out of sack.

Quick. Ay, that 'a did.

Bard. And of women.

Quick. Nay, that 'a did not.

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

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

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

Quick. 'A did in some sort, indeed, handle women: but then he was rheumatic; ²⁹⁾ and talked of the whore of Babylon.

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

Bard. Well, the fuel is gone, that maintained that fire; that's all the riches I got in his service.

HK.

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Nym. Shall we shog off? the king will be gone from Southampton.

Pist. Come, let's away. — My love, give me thy lips. Look to my chattels, and my moveables: Let senses rule; the word is, *Pitch and pay*; Trust none;

For oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer-cakes, And hold-fast is the only dog, my duck; Therefore, *caveto* be thy counsellor.

Go, clear thy chrystals. — ³⁰) Yoke-fellows in arms, Let us to France! like horse-leeches, my boys; To suck, to suck, the very blood to suck!

Boy. And that is but unwholesome food they say. *Pist.* Touch her soft mouth, and march.

Bard. Farewell, hostess. [*Kissing her.* *Nym.* I cannot kiss, that is the humour of it; but adieu.

Pist. Let housewifery appear; keep close, I thee command.

Quick. Farewell; adieu. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

France. *A Room in the French King's Palace.*

Enter the French King attended; the DAUPHIN, the Duke of BURGUNDY, the Constable, and others.

Fr. King. Thus come the English with full power upon us;

And more than carefully it us concerns, To answer royally in our defences.

Therefore the dukes of Berry, and of Bretagne, Of Brabant, and of Orleans, shall make forth, — And you, prince Dauphin, — with all swift despatch, To line, and new repair, our towns of war, With men of courage, and with means defendant: For England his approaches makes as fierce, As waters to the sucking of a gulph. It fits us then, to be as provident As fear may teach us, out of late examples Left by the fatal and neglected English Upon our fields.

Dau. My most redoubted father, It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe: For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom, ³¹) (Though war, nor no known quarrel, were in question,) But that defences, musters, preparations, Should be maintain'd, assembled, and collected, As were a war in expectation. Therefore, I say, 'tis meet we all go forth, To view the sick and feeble parts of France; And let us do it with no show of fear; No, with no more, than if we heard that England Were busied with a Whitsun morris-dance: For, my good liege, she is so idly king'd, Her scepter so fantastically borne By a vain, giddy, shallow, humorous youth, That fear attends her not.

Con. O peace, prince Dauphin! You are too much mistaken in this king: Question your grace the late ambassadors, — With what great state he heard their embassy, How well supplied with noble counsellors, How modest in exception, ³²) and, withal, How terrible in constant resolution, — And you shall find, his vanities fore-spent Were but the outside of the Roman Brutus, Covering discretion with a coat of folly; As gardeners do with ordure hide those roots That shall first spring, and be most delicate. *Dau.* Well, 'tis not so, my lord high constable, But though we think it so, it is no matter:

XX.

In cases of defence, 'tis best to weigh The enemy more mighty than he seems, So the proportions of defence are fill'd; Which, of a weak and niggardly projection, Doth, like a miser, spoil his coat, with scanting A little cloth.

Fr. King. Think we king Harry strong; And, princes, look, you strongly arm to meet him. The kindred of him hath been flesh'd upon us; And he is bred out of that bloody strain, ³³) That haunted us ³⁴) in our familiar paths: Witness our too much memorable shame, When Cressy battle fatally was struck, And all our princes captiv'd, by the hand Of that black name, Edward black prince of Wales; Whiles that his mountain sire, — on mountain standing, Up in the air, crown'd with the golden sun, — Saw his heroical seed, and smil'd to see him Mangle the work of nature, and deface The patterns that by God and by French fathers Had twenty years been made. This is a stem Of that victorious stock; and let us fear The native mightiness and fate of him. ³⁵)

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. Ambassadors from Henry king of England Do crave admittance to your majesty.

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

[*Exeunt Mess. and certain Lords.*

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

Dau. Turn head, and stop pursuit: for coward dogs Most spend their mouths, ³⁶) when what they seem to threaten,

Runs far before them. Good my sovereign, Take up the English short; and let them know Of what a monarchy you are the head: Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin As self-neglecting.

Re-enter Lords, with EXETER and Train.

Fr. King. From our brother England?

Exe. From him; and thus he greets your majesty. He wills you, in the name of God Almighty, That you divest yourself, and lay apart The borrow'd glories, that, by gift of heaven, By law of nature, and of nations, 'long To him, and to his heirs; namely, the crown, And all wide stretched honours that pertain, By custom and the ordinance of times Unto the crown of France. That you may know, 'Tis no sinister, nor no awkward claim, Pick'd from the worm-holes of long-vanish'd days, Nor from the dust of old oblivion rak'd, He sends you this most memorable line, ³⁷)

[*Gives a paper.*

In every branch truly demonstrative; Willing you, overlook this pedigree: And, when you find him evenly deriv'd From his most fam'd of famous ancestors, Edward the Third, he bids you then resign Your crown and kingdom, indirectly held From him the native and true challenger.

Fr. King. Or else what follows? *Exe.* Bloody constraint: for if you hide the crown Even in your hearts, there will he rake for it: And therefore in fierce tempest is he coming, In thunder, and in earthquake, like a Jove; (That, if requiring fail, he will compel;) And bids you, in the bowels of the Lord, Deliver up the crown; and to take mercy On the poor souls, for whom this hungry war

Act III.

Opens his vasty jaws: and on your head Turns he the widows' tears, the orphans' cries, The dead men's blood, the pining maidens' groans For husbands, fathers, and betrothed lovers, That shall be swallow'd in this controversy. This is his claim, his threat'ning, and my message; Unless the Dauphin be in presence here, To whom expressly I bring greeting too.

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

Dau. For the Dauphin, I stand here for him; What to him from England?

Exe. Scorn, and defiance; slight regard, contempt, And any thing that may not misbecome The mighty sender, doth he prize you at. Thus says my king: and, if your father's highness Do not, in grant of all demands at large, Sweeten the bitter mock you sent his majesty, He'll call you to so hot an answer for it, That caves and womby vaultages of France Shall chide your trespass, ³⁸) and return your mock In second accent of his ordinance.

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

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

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

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

Fr. King. You shall be soon despatch'd, with fair conditions:

A night is but small breath, and little pause, To answer matters of this consequence. [*Exeunt.*

ACT III.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Thus with imagin'd wing our swift scene flies, In motion of no less celerity Than that of thought. Suppose that you have seen The well-appointed king at Hampton pier Embark his royalty; and his brave fleet With silken streamers the young Phœbus fanning. Play with your fancies; and in them behold, Upon the hempen tackle, ship-boys climbing: Hear the shrill whistle, which doth order give To sounds confus'd: behold the threaden sails, Borne with the invisible and creeping wind, Draw the huge bottoms through the furrow'd sea, Breasting the lofty surge: O, do but think, You stand upon the rivage, ¹) and behold A city on the inconstant billows dancing; For so appears this fleet majestical, Holding due course to Harfleur. Follow, follow! Grapple your minds to sternage of this navy; ²) And leave your England, as dead midnight, still, Guarded with grandsires, babies, and old women, Either past, or not arriv'd to, pith and puissance: For who is he, whose chin is but enrich'd

With one appearing hair, that will not follow These cull'd and choice-drawn cavaliers to France? Work, work, your thoughts, and therein see a siege: Behold the ordnance on their carriages, With fatal mouths gaping on girded Harfleur, Suppose, the ambassador from the French comes back; Tells Harry — that the king doth offer him Katharine his daughter; and with her, to dowry, Some petty and unprofitable dukedoms. The offer likes not: and the nimble gunner With linstock ³) now the devilish cannon touches,

[*Alarum; and Chambers go off.*

And down goes all before them. Still be kind, And eke out our performance with your mind. [*Exit.*

SCENE I.

The same. Before Harfleur.

Alarums. Enter King HENRY, EXETER, BEDFORD, GLOSTER, and Soldiers, with Scaling Ladders.

K. Hen. Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more;

Or close the wall up with our English dead! In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man, As modest stillness, and humility: But when the blast of war blows in our ears, Then imitate the action of the tiger; Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage: Then lend the eye a terrible aspect; Let it pry through the portage of the head, Like the brass cannon; let the brow o'erwhelm it, As fearfully, as doth a galled rock O'erhang and jutty ⁴) his confounded base, ⁵) Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean. Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril wide; Hold hard the breath, and bend up every spirit To his full height! — On, on, you noblest English, ⁶) Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-proof! Fathers, that, like so many Alexanders, Have, in these parts, from morn till even fought, And sheath'd their swords for lack of argument. ⁷) Dishonour not your mothers; now attest, That those, whom you call'd fathers, did beget you! Be copy now to men of grosser blood, And teach them how to war! — And you, good yeomen,

Whose limbs were made in England, show us here The mettle of your pasture; let us swear That you are worth your breeding: which I doubt not; For there is none of you so mean and base, That hath not noble lustre in your eyes. I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips, ⁸) Straining upon the start. The game's afoot; Follow your spirit: and, upon this charge, Cry — God for Harry! England! and Saint George! [*Exeunt. Alarum, and Chambers go off.*

SCENE II.

The same.

Forces pass over; then enter NYM, BARDOLPH, PISTOL, and Boy.

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

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

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

Knocks go and come; God's vassals drop and die;

XX.

And sword and shield,
In bloody field,
Doth win immortal fame.

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

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

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

Enter FLUELLEN. ⁹⁾

Flu. Got's plood!—Up to the preaches, you rascals!
will you not up to the preaches?

[Driving them forward.]

Pist. Be merciful, great duke, to men of mould! ¹⁰⁾
Abate thy rage, abate thy manly rage!
Abate thy rage, great duke!

Good hawkcock, bate thy rage! use lenity, sweet chuck!
Nym. These be good humours!—your honour wins
bad humours.

*[Exit Nym, Pistol, and Bardolph,
followed by FLUELLEN.]*

Boy. As young as I am, I have observed these
three swashers. I am boy to them all three: but all
they three, though they would serve me, could not
be man to me; for, indeed, three such antics do
not amount to a man. For Bardolph,—he is white-
livered, and red-faced; by the means whereof, 'a
faces it out, but fights not. For Pistol,—he hath
a killing tongue, and a quiet sword; by the means
whereof 'a breaks words, and keeps whole weapons.
For Nym,—he hath heard, that men of few words
are the best men; ¹¹⁾ and therefore he scorns to
say his prayers, lest 'a should be thought a coward:
but his few bad words are match'd with as few
good deeds; for 'a never broke any man's head but
his own; and that was against a post, when he was
drunk. They will steal any thing, and call it,—
purchase. Bardolph stole a lute-case; bore it twelve
leagues, and sold it for three-halfpence. Nym, and
Bardolph, are sworn brothers in filching; and in
Calais they stole a fire-shovel: I knew, by that
piece of service, the men would carry coals. ¹²⁾
They would have me as familiar with men's pockets,
as their gloves or their handkerchiefs; which makes
much against my manhood, if I should take from
another's pocket, to put into mine; for it is plain
pocketing up of wrongs. I must leave them, and
seek some better service: their villainy goes against
my weak stomach, and therefore I must cast it up.

[Exit Boy.]

Re-enter FLUELLEN, GOWER following.

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

Flu. To the mines! tell you the duke, it is not so
good to come to the mines: For, look you, the mines
is not according to the disciplines of the war; the
concavities of it is not sufficient; for, look you,
th' athversary (you may discuss unto the duke, look
you,) is dight himself four yards under the counter-
mines; ¹³⁾ by Cheshu, I think, 'a will plow up
all, ¹⁴⁾ if there is not better directions.

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

Flu. It is captain Macmorris, is it not?

Gow. I think it be.

Flu. By Cheshu, he is an ass, as in the 'orld: I

will verify as much in his peard: he has no more
directions in the true disciplines of the wars, look
you, of the Roman disciplines, than is a puppy-dog.

Enter MACMORRIS and JAMY, at a distance.

Gow. Here 'a comes; and the Scots captain, captain
Jamy, with him.

Flu. Captain Jamy is a marvellous falorous gentle-
man, that is certain; and of great expedition, and
knowledge, in the ancient wars, upon my particular
knowledge of his directions: by Cheshu, he will
maintain his argument as well as any military man
in the 'orld, in the disciplines of the pristine wars
of the Romans.

Jamy. I say, gud-day, captain Fluellen.

Flu. God-den to your worship, goot captain Jamy.

Gow. How now, captain Macmorris? have you quit
the mines? have the pioneers given o'er?

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

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

Jamy. It sall be very gud, gud feith, gud captains
bath: and I sall quit you ¹⁵⁾ with gud leve, as I
may pick occasion; that sall I, marry.

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

Jamy. By the mess, ere theise eyes of mine take
themselves to slumber, aile do good service, or aile
ligge i'the grund for it; ay, or go to death; and
aile pay it as valorously as I may, that sall I surely
do, that is the breff and the long: Mary, I wad
fain heard some question 'tween you 'tway.

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

Mac. Of my nation? What ish my nation? ish a
villain, and a bastard, and a knave, and a rascal?
What ish my nation? Who talks of my nation?

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

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

Gow. Gentlemen both, you will mistake each other.

Jamy. Au! that's a foul fault. *[A Parley sounded.]*

Gow. The town sounds a parley.

Flu. Captain Macmorris, when there is more better
opportunity to be required, look you, I will be so
bold as to tell you, I know the disciplines of war;
and there is an end. ¹⁶⁾

[Exit.]

SCENE III.

The same. Before the Gates of Harfleur.

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

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

This is the latest parle we will admit;
Therefore, to our best mercy give yourselves;
Or like to men proud of destruction,
Defy us to our worst: for, as I am a soldier,
(A name, that, in my thoughts, becomes me best,)
If I begin the battery once again,
I will not leave the half-achieved Harfleur,
Till in her ashes she lie buried.

The gates of mercy shall be all shut up;
And the flesh'd soldier—rough and hard of heart,—
In liberty of bloody hand, shall range
With conscience wide as hell; mowing like grass
Your fresh-fair virgins, and your flowering infants.
What is it then to me, if impious war,—
Array'd in flames, like to the prince of fiends,—
Do, with his smirch'd complexion, all fell feats
Enlink'd to waste and desolation? ¹⁷⁾

What is't to me, when you yourselves are cause,
If your pure maidens fall into the hand
Of hot and forcing violation!

What rein can hold licentious wickedness,
When down the hill he holds his fierce career?

We may as bootless spend our vain command
Upon the enraged soldiers in their spoil,
As send precepts to the Leviathan

To come ashore. Therefore, you men of Harfleur,
Take pity of your town, and of your people,

Whiles yet my soldiers are in my command;
Whiles yet the cool and temperate wind of grace
O'erblows the filthy and contagious clouds ¹⁸⁾
Of deadly murder, spoil, and villainy.

If not, why, in a moment, look to see
The blind and bloody soldier with foul hand
Defile the locks of your shrill-shrieking daughters;

Your fathers taken by the silver beards,
And their most reverend heads dash'd to the walls;

Your naked infants spitted upon pikes;
Whilst the mad mothers with their howls confus'd
Do break the clouds, as did the wives of Jewry
At Herod's bloody-hunting slaughtermen.

What say you? will you yield, and this avoid?
Or, guilty in defence, be thus destroy'd?

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

K. Hen. Open your gates.—Come uncle, Exeter,
Go you and enter Harfleur; there remain,
And fortify it strongly 'gainst the French:

Use mercy to them all. For us, dear uncle,—
The winter coming on, and sickness growing
Upon our soldiers,—we'll retire to Calais.

To-night in Harfleur will we be your guest;
To-morrow for the march are we address'd. ¹⁹⁾

[Flourish. The KING, &c. enter the town.]

SCENE IV. ²⁰⁾

Roüen. A Room in the Palace.

Enter KATHARINE and ALICE.

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

Alice. Un peu, madame.

*Kath. Je te prie, m'enseigne; il faut que j'ap-
prenne à parler. Comment appelez vous le main,
en Anglois?*

Alice. La main? elle est appelée, de hand.

Kath. De hand. Et les doigts?

*Alice. Les doigts? ma foy, ²¹⁾ j'oublie les doigts;
mais je me souviendray. Les doigts? je pense,
qu'ils sont appelé de fingres; ouy de fingres.*

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

Alice. Les ongles? les appellons, de nails.

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

*Alice. C'est bien dit, madame; il est fort bon
Anglois.*

Kath. Dites moy en Anglois, le bras.

Alice. De arm, madame.

Kath. Et le coude.

Alice. De elbow.

*Kath. De elbow. Je m'en faitz la repetition de
tous les mots, que vous m'avez appris dès à pre-
sent.*

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

*Kath. Excusez moy, Alice; escoutez: De hand,
de fingre, de nails, de arm, de bilbow.*

Alice. De elbow, madame.

*Kath. O Seigneur Dieu! je m'en oublie; De elbow.
Comment appelez vous le col?*

Alice. De neck, madame.

Kath. De neck: Et le menton?

Alice. De chin.

Kath. De sin. Le col, de neck: le menton, de sin.

*Alice. Ouy. Sauf vostre honneur: en verité, vous
prononcez les mots aussi droict que les natifs
d'Angleterre.*

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

*Alice. N'avez vous pas déjà oublié ce que je vous
ay enseignée?*

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

Alice. De nails, madame.

Kath. De nails, de arm, de elbow.

Alice. Sauf vostre honneur, de elbow.

*Kath. Ainsi dis-je; de elbow, de neck, et de sin:
Comment appelez vous le pieds et la robe?*

Alice. De foot, madame; et de con.

*Kath. De foot, et de con? O Seigneur Dieu! ces
sont mots de son mauvais, corruptible, grosse, et
impudique, et non pour les dames d'honneur d'user:
Je ne voudrois prononcer ces mots devant les Sei-
gneurs de France, pour tout le monde. Il faut de
foot, et de con, neantmoins. Je reciterai une autre
fois ma leçon ensemble. De hand, de fingre, de
nails, de arm, de elbow, de neck, de sin, de foot,
de con.*

Alice. Excellent, madame!

*Kath. C'est assez pour une fois; allons nous a
disner.* *[Exit.]*

SCENE V.

The same. Another Room in the same.

*Enter the French KING, the DAUPHIN, Duke of
BOURBON, the Constable of France, and others.*

Fr. King. 'Tis certain, he hath pass'd the River
Some.

Con. And if he be not fought withal, my lord,

SCENE VI.

*The English Camp in Picardy.**Enter GOWER and FLUELLEN.***Gow.** How now, captain Fluellen? come you from the bridge?**Flu.** I assure you, there is very excellent service committed at the pridge.**Gow.** Is the duke of Exeter safe?**Flu.** The duke of Exeter is as magnanimous as Agamemnon; and a man that I love and honour with my soul, and my heart, and my duty, and my life, and my livings, and my uttermost powers: he is not, (God be praised and plessed!) any hurt in the 'orld; but keeps the pridge most valiantly, with excellent discipline. There is an ensign there at the pridge, — I think, in my very conscience, he is as valiant as Mark Antony; and he is a man of no estimation in the 'orld: but I did see him do gallant service.**Gow.** What do you call him?**Flu.** He is called — ancient Pistol.**Gow.** I know him not.*Enter Pistol.***Flu.** Do you not know him? Here comes the man.**Pist.** Captain, I thee beseech to do me favours: The duke of Exeter doth love thee well.**Flu.** Ay, I praise Got: and I have merited some love at his hands.**Pist.** Bardolph, a soldier, firm and sound of heart, Of buxom valour, ²⁹ hath, — by cruel fate, And giddy fortune's furious fickle wheel, That goddess blind, That stands upon the rolling restless stone, —**Flu.** By your patience, ancient Pistol. Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler before her eyes; to signify to you that fortune is plind: and she is painted also with a wheel; to signify to you, which is the moral of it, that she is turning, and inconstant, and variations, and mutabilities: and her foot, look you, is fixed upon a spherical stone, which rolls, and rolls, and rolls; — In good truth, the poet is make a most excellent description of fortune: fortune, look you, is an excellent moral.**Pist.** Fortune is Bardolph's foe, and frowns on him; For he hath stol'n a *pix*, ³⁰ and hanged must 'a be. A damned death!Let gallows gape for dog, let man go free, And let not hemp his wind-pipe suffocate; But Exeter hath given the doom of death, For *pix* of little price.

Therefore, go speak, the duke will hear thy voice; And let not Bardolph's vital thread be cut With edge of penny cord, and vile reproach: Speak, captain, for his life, and I will thee requite.

Flu. Ancient Pistol, I do partly understand your meaning.**Pist.** Why then rejoice therefore.**Flu.** Certainly, ancient, it is not a thing to rejoice at: for if, look you, he were my brother, I would desire the duke to use his goot pleasure, and put him to executions; for disciplines ought to be used.**Pist.** Die and be dam'd; and *figo* for thy friendship!**Flu.** It is well.**Pist.** The fig of Spain! ³¹**Flu.** Very good.**Gow.** Why, this is an arrant counterfeit rascal; I remember him now; a bawd; a cutpurse.**Flu.** I'll assure you, 'a utter'd as prave 'ords at the pridge, as you shall see in a summer's day: But*[Exeunt.]*

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it is very well; what he has spoke to me, that is well, I warrant you, when time is serve.

Gow. Why, 'tis a gull, a fool, a rogue; that now and then goes to the wars, to grace himself, at his return into London, under the form of a soldier. And such fellows are perfect in great commanders' names: and they will learn you by rote, where services were done; — at such and such a sconce, ³² at such a breach, at such a convoy; who came off bravely, who was shot, who disgraced, what terms the enemy stood on; and this they can perfectly in the phrase of war, which they trick up with new-tuned oaths: And what a beard of the general's cut, ³³ and a horrid suit of the camp, will do among foaming bottles, and ale-washed wits, is wonderful to be thought on! but you must learn to know such slanders of the age, or else you may be marvellous mistook.**Flu.** I tell you what, captain Gower; — I do perceive, he is not the man that he would gladly make show to the 'orld he is; if I find a hole in his coat, I will tell him my mind. *[Drum heard.]* Hark you, the king is coming; and I must speak with him from the pridge.*Enter King HENRY, GLOSTER, and Soldiers.***Flu.** Got pless your majesty!**K. Hen.** How now, Fluellen? camest thou from the bridge?**Flu.** Ay, so please your majesty. The duke of Exeter has very gallantly maintained the pridge: the French is gone off, look you; and there is gallant and most prave passages: Marry, th'athversary was have possession of the pridge; but he is enforced to retire, and the duke of Exeter is master of the pridge: I can tell your majesty, the duke is a prave man.**K. Hen.** What men have you lost, Fluellen?**Flu.** The perdition of th'athversary hath been very great, very reasonable great: marry, for my part, I think the duke hath lost never a man, but one that is like to be executed for robbing a church, one Bardolph, if your majesty know the man: his face is all bubukles, and whelks, and knobs, and flames of fire; and his lips plows at his nose, and it is like a coal of fire, sometimes plue, and sometimes red; but his nose is executed, and his fire's out. ³⁴**K. Hen.** We would have all such offenders so cut off: — and we give express charge, that, in our marches through the country, there be nothing compelled from the villages, nothing taken but paid for; none of the French upbraided, or abused in disdainful language: For when lenity and cruelty play for a kingdom, the gentler gamester is the soonest winner.*Tucket sounds. Enter MONTJOY. ³⁵***Mont.** You know me by my habit. ³⁶**K. Hen.** Well then, I know thee; What shall I know of thee?**Mont.** My master's mind.**K. Hen.** Unfold it.**Mont.** Thus says my king: — Say thou to Harry of England, Though we seemed dead, we did but sleep; Advantage is a better soldier, than rashness. Tell him, we could have rebuked him at Harfleur: but that we thought not good to bruise an injury, till it were full ripe: — now we speak upon our cue, ³⁷ and our voice is imperial: England shall repent his folly, see his weakness, and admire our sufferance. Bid him, therefore, consider of his ran-

some; which must proportion the losses we have borne, the subjects we have lost, the disgrace we have digested; which, in weight to reanswer, his pettiness would bow under. For our losses, his exchequer is too poor; for the effusion of our blood, the muster of his kingdom too faint a number; and for our disgrace, his own person, kneeling at our feet, but a weak and worthless satisfaction. To this add — defiance: and tell him, for conclusion, he hath betrayed his followers, whose condemnation is pronounced. So far my king and master; so much my office.

K. Hen. What is thy name? I know thy quality.**Mont.** Montjoy.**K. Hen.** Thou dost thy office fairly. Turn thee back, And tell thy king, — I do not seek him now; But could be willing to march on to Calais Without impeachment: ³⁸ for, to say the sooth, (Though 'tis no wisdom to confess so much, Unto an enemy of craft and vantage,) My people are with sickness much enfeebled; My numbers lessen'd; and those few I have, Almost no better than so many French; Who when they were in health, I tell thee, herald, I thought, upon one pair of English legs Did march three Frenchmen. — Yet, forgive me, God, That I do brag thus! — this your air of France Hath blown that vice in me; I must repent. Go, therefore, tell thy master, here I am; My ransome, is this frail and worthless trunk; My army, but a weak and sickly guard; Yet, God before, tell him we will come on, Though France himself, and such another neighbour, Stand in our way. There's for thy labour, Montjoy. Go, bid thy master well advise himself: If we may pass, we will; if we be hinder'd, We shall your tawny ground with your red blood Discolour: and so, Montjoy, fare you well. The sum of all our answer is but this: We would not seek a battle, as we are; Nor as we are, we say, we will not shun it; So tell your master.**Mont.** I shall deliver so. Thanks to your highness.*[Exit MONTJOY.]***Glo.** I hope they will not come upon us now.**K. Hen.** We are in God's hand, brother, not in theirs.March to the bridge; it now draws toward night, — Beyond the river we'll encamp ourselves; And on to-morrow bid them march away. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VII.

*The French Camp near Agincourt.**Enter the Constable of France, the Lord RAMBURES, the Duke of ORLEANS, DAUPHIN, and others.***Con.** Tut! I have the best armour of the world. — 'Would it were day!**Orl.** You have an excellent armour; but let my horse have his due.**Con.** It is the best horse of Europe.**Orl.** Will it never be morning?**Dau.** My lord of Orleans, and my lord high constable, you talk of horse and armour, —**Orl.** You are as well provided of both, as any prince in the world.**Dau.** What a long night is this! — I will not change my horse with any that treads but on four pasterns. *Ca, ha!* He bounds from the earth, as if his entrails were hairs; ³⁹ *le cheval volant*, the Pegasus, *qui a les narines de feu!* When I bestride

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him, I soar, I am a hawk: he trots the air; the earth sings when he touches it; the basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipe of Hermes.

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

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

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

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

Orl. No more, cousin.

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

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

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

Orl. Your mistress bears well.

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

Con. *Ma foy!* the other day, methought, your mistress shrewdly shook your back.

Dau. So, perhaps, did yours.

Con. Mine was not bridled.

Dau. O! then, belike, she was old and gentle; and you rode, like a kerne of Ireland, your French hose off, and in your straight trossers. ⁴⁰⁾

Con. You have good judgment in horsemanship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Con. Stars, my lord.

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

Con. And yet my sky shall not want.

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

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

Dau. 'Would I were able to load him with his desert! Will it never be day? I will trot to-morrow a mile, and my way shall be paved with English faces.

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

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

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

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

Orl. The Dauphin longs for morning.

Ram. He longs to eat the English.

Con. I think, he will eat all he kills.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Orl. I know him to be valiant.

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

Orl. What's he?

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

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

Con. By my faith, sir, but it is; never any body saw it, but his lackey: 'tis a hooded valour; and when it appears, it will bate. ⁴¹⁾

Orl. Ill will never said well.

Con. I will cap that proverb with — There is flattery in friendship.

Orl. And I will take up that with — Give the devil his due.

Con. Well placed; there stands your friend for the devil: have at the very eye of that proverb, with — A pox of the devil.

Orl. You are the better at proverbs, by how much — A fool's bolt is soon shot.

Con. You have shot over.

Orl. 'Tis not the first time you were overshot.

Enter a Messenger.

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

Con. Who hath measured the ground?

Mess. The lord Grandpré.

Con. A valiant and most expert gentleman. — Would it were day! — Alas, poor Harry of England! he longs not for the dawning, as we do.

Orl. What a wretched and peevish ⁴²⁾ fellow is this king of England, to mope with his fat-brained followers so far out of his knowledge!

Con. If the English had any apprehension, they would run away.

Orl. That they lack; for if their heads had any intellectual armour, they could never wear such heavy headpieces.

Ram. That island of England breeds very valiant creatures; their mastiffs are of unmatched courage.

Orl. Foolish curs! that run winking into the mouth of a Russian bear, and have their heads crushed like rotten apples: You may as well say, — that's a valiant flea, that dare eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.

Con. Just, just; and the men do sympathize with the mastiffs, in robustious and rough coming on, leaving their wits with their wives: and then give them great meals of beef, and iron and steel, they will eat like wolves, and fight like devils.

Orl. Ay, but these English are shrewdly out of beef.

Con. Then we shall find to-morrow — they have

only stomachs to eat, and none to fight. Now is it time to arm: Come, shall we about it?

Orl. It is now two o'clock: but, let me see, — by ten,

We shall have each a hundred Englishmen.

[Exeunt.]

ACT IV.

Enter Chorus.

Chor. Now entertain conjecture of a time,
When creeping murmur, and the poring dark,
Fills the wide vessel of the universe.
From camp to camp, through the foul womb of night,
The hum of either army stilly sounds, ¹⁾
That the fix'd sentinels almost receive
The secret whispers of each other's watch:
Fire answers fire: and through their paly flames
Each battle sees the other's umber'd face: ²⁾
Steeds threatens steeds, in high and boastful neighs
Piercing the night's dull ear; and from the tents,
The armourers, accomplishing the knights,
With busy hammers closing rivets up,
Give dreadful note of preparation.
The country cocks do crow, the clocks do toll,
And the third hour of drowsy morning name.
Proud of their numbers, and secure in soul,
The confident and over-lusty ³⁾ French
Do the low-rated English play at dice: ⁴⁾
And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night,
Who, like a foul and ugly witch, doth limp
So tediously away. The poor condemned English,
Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires
Sit patiently, and inly ruminate
The morning's danger; and their gesture sad,
Investing lank-lean cheeks, and war-worn coats,
Presenteth them unto the gazing moon
So many horrid ghosts. O, now, who will behold
The royal captain of this ruin'd band,
Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,
Let him cry — Praise and glory on his head!
For forth he goes, and visits all his host;
Bids them good-morrow, with a modest smile;
And calls them — brothers, friends, and countrymen.
Upon his royal face there is no note,
How dread an army hath enrounded him;
Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour
Unto the weary and all-watched night:
But freshly looks, and overbears attaint,
With cheerful semblance, and sweet majesty;
That every wretch, pining and pale before,
Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks:
A largess universal, like the sun,
His liberal eye doth give to every one,
Thawing cold fear. Then, mean and gentle all,
Behold, as may unworthiness define,
A little touch of Harry in the night:
And so our scene must to the battle fly;
Where, (O for pity!) we shall much disgrace —
With four or five most vile and ragged foils,
Right ill dispos'd, in brawl ridiculous, —
The name of Agincourt: Yet, sit and see;
Minding true things, ⁵⁾ by what their mockeries be.

[Exit.]

SCENE I.

The English Camp at Agincourt.

Enter King HENRY, BEDFORD, and GLOSTER.

K. Hen. Gloster, 'tis true, that we are in great danger;

The greater therefore should our courage be. —
Good morrow, brother Bedford. — God Almighty!
There is some soul of goodness in things evil,
Would men observingly distil it out;
For our bad neighbour makes us early stirrers,
Which is both healthful, and good-husbandry:
Besides, they are our outward consciences,
And preachers to us all; admonishing,
⁶⁾ That we should dress us fairly for our end.
Thus may we gather honey from the weed,
And make a moral of the devil himself.

Enter ERPINGHAM.

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

Erp. Not so, my liege; this lodging likes me better,
Since I may say — now lie I like a king.

K. Hen. 'Tis good for men to love their present pains,
Upon example; so the spirit is eased:

And, when the mind is quicken'd, out of doubt,
The organs, though defunct and dead before,
Break up their drowsy grave, and newly move
With casted slough and fresh legerity. ⁷⁾

Lend me thy cloak, sir Thomas. — Brothers both,
Commend me to the princes in our camp;
Do my good morrow to them; and, anon,
Desire them all to my pavilion.

Glo. We shall, my liege.

[Exeunt GLOSTER and BEDFORD.]

Erp. Shall I attend your grace?

K. Hen. No, my good knight;
Go with my brothers to my lords of England:

I in my bosom must debate a while,
And then I would no other company.

Erp. The Lord in Heaven bless thee, noble Harry!

[Exit ERPINGHAM.]

K. Hen. God-a-mercy, old heart! thou speakest cheerfully.

Enter PISTOL.

Pist. *Qui va là?*

K. Hen. A friend.

Pist. Discuss unto me; Art thou officer?

Or art thou base, common, and popular?

K. Hen. I am a gentleman of a company.

Pist. Trailest thou the puissant pike?

K. Hen. Even so: What are you?

Pist. As good a gentleman as the emperor.

K. Hen. Then you are a better than the king.

Pist. The king's a bawcock, and a heart of gold,
A lad of life, an imp of fame;

Of parents good, of fist most valiant:

I kiss his dirty shoe, and from my heart-strings

I love the lovely bully. What's thy name?

K. Hen. Harry le Roy.

Pist. *Le Roy!* a Cornish name; art thou of Cornish crew?

K. Hen. No, I am a Welchman.

Pist. Knowest thou Fluellen?

K. Hen. Yes.

Pist. Tell him, I'll knock his leek about his pate,
Upon saint Davy's day.

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

Pist. Art thou his friend?

K. Hen. And his kinsman too.

Pist. The *figo* for thee then!

K. Hen. I thank you: God be with you!

Pist. My name is Pistol called. [Exit.]

K. Hen. It sorts ⁸⁾ well with your fierceness.

Enter FLUELLEN and GOWER, severally.

Gow. Captain Fluellen!

Flu. So! in the name of Cheshu Christ, speak lower: It is the greatest admiration in the universal 'orld, when the true and auncient prerogatives and laws of the wars is not kept: if you would take the pains but to examine the wars of Pompey the Great, you shall find, I warrant you, that there is no tiddle taddle, or pibble pabble, in Pompey's camp; I warrant you, you shall find the ceremonies of the wars, and the cares of it, and the forms of it, and the sobriety of it, and the modesty of it, to be otherwise.

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

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

Gow. I will speak lower.

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

[Exit GOWER and FLUELLEN.]

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

Enter BATES, COURT, and WILLIAMS.

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

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

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

K. Hen. A friend.

Will. Under what captain serve you?

K. Hen. Under sir Thomas Erpingham.

Will. A good old commander, and a most kind gentleman: I pray you, what thinks he of our estate?

K. Hen. Even as men wrecked upon a sand, that look to be washed off the next tide.

Bates. He hath not told his thought to the king?

K. Hen. No; nor it is not meet he should. For, though I speak it to you, I think, the king is but a man, as I am: the violet smells to him, as it doth to me; the element shows to him, as it doth to me; all his senses have but human conditions: ²⁾ his ceremonies laid by, in his nakedness he appears but a man; and though his affections are higher mounted than ours, yet, when they stoop, they stoop with the like wing; therefore when he sees reason of fears, as we do, his fears, out of doubt, be of the same relish as ours are: Yet, in reason, no man should possess him with any appearance of fear, lest he, by showing it, should dishearten his army.

Bates. He may show what outward courage he will: but, I believe, as cold a night as 'tis, he could wish himself in the Thames up to the neck; and so I would he were, and I by him, at all adventures, so we were quit here.

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

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

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

Will. That's more than we know.

Bates. Ay, or more than we should seek after; for

we know enough, if we know we are the king's subjects; if his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

Will. But if the cause be not good, the king himself hath a heavy reckoning to make; when all those legs, and arms, and heads, chopped off in a battle, shall join together at the latter day, and cry all — We died at such place; some, swearing; some, crying for a surgeon; some, upon their wives left poor behind them; some, upon the debts they owe; some, upon their children rawly left. ¹⁰⁾ I am afraid there are few die well, that die in battle; for how can they charitably dispose of any thing, when blood is their argument? Now, if these men do not die well, it will be a black matter for the king that led them to it; whom to disobey, were against all proportion of subjection.

K. Hen. So, if a son, that is by his father sent about merchandise, do sinfully miscarry upon the sea, the imputation of his wickedness, by your rule, should be imposed upon his father that sent him: or if a servant, under his master's command, transporting a sum of money, be assailed by robbers, and die in many irreconciled iniquities, you may call the business of the master the author of the servant's damnation: — But this is not so: the king is not bound to answer the particular endings of his soldiers, the father of his son, nor the master of his servant; for they purpose not their death, when they purpose their services. Besides, there is no king, be his cause never so spotless, if it come to the arbitrement of swords, can try it out with all unspotted soldiers. Some, peradventure, have on them the guilt of premeditated and contrived murder; some, of beguiling virgins with the broken seals of perjury; some, making the wars their bulwark, that have before gored the gentle bosom of peace with pillage and robbery. Now, if these men have defeated the law, and outrun native punishment, ¹¹⁾ though they can outstrip men, they have no wings to fly from God: war is his beadle, war is his vengeance; so that here men are punished, for before-breach of the king's laws, in now the king's quarrel: where they feared the death, they have borne life away; and where they would be safe, they perish: Then if they die unprovided, no more is the king guilty of their damnation, than he was before guilty of those impieties for the which they are now visited. Every subject's duty ¹²⁾ is the king's; but every subject's soul is his own. Therefore should every soldier in the wars do as every sick man in his bed, wash every mote out of his conscience: and dying so, death is to him advantage; or not dying, the time was blessedly lost, wherein such preparation was gained: and, in him that escapes, it were not sin to think, that making God so free an offer, he let him outlive that day to see his greatness, and to teach others how they should prepare.

Will. 'Tis certain, every man that dies ill, the ill is upon his own head, the king is not to answer for it.

Bates. I do not desire he should answer for me; and yet I determine to fight lustily for him.

K. Hen. I myself heard the king say, he would not be ransomed.

Will. Ay, he said so, to make us fight cheerfully: but, when our throats are cut, he may be ransomed, and we ne'er the wiser.

K. Hen. If I live to see it, I will never trust his word after.

Will. 'Mass, you'll pay him then! ¹³⁾ That's a perilous shot out of an elder gun, that a poor and private displeasure can do against a monarch! you

may as well go about to turn the sun to ice, with fanning in his face with a peacock's feather. You'll never trust his word after! come, 'tis a foolish saying.

K. Hen. Your reproof is something too round; ¹⁴⁾ I should be angry with you, if the time were convenient.

Will. Let it be a quarrel between us, if you live.

K. Hen. I embrace it.

Will. How shall I know thee again?

K. Hen. Give me any gage of thine, and I will wear it in my bonnet: then, if ever thou darest acknowledge it, I will make it my quarrel.

Will. Here's my glove; give me another of thine.

K. Hen. There.

Will. This will I also wear in my cap: if ever thou come to me and say, after to-morrow, *This is my glove*, by this hand, I will take thee a box on the ear.

K. Hen. If ever I live to see it, I will challenge it.

Will. Thou darest as well be hanged.

K. Hen. Well, I will do it, though I take thee in the king's company.

Will. Keep thy word: fare thee well.

Bates. Be friends, you English fools, be friends; we have French quarrels enough, if you could tell how to reckon.

K. Hen. Indeed, the French may lay twenty French crowns to one, they will beat us; for they bear them on their shoulders: But it is no English treason, to cut French crowns; and, to-morrow, the king himself will be a clipper. [Exit Soldiers.]

Upon the king! ¹⁵⁾ let us our lives, our souls, Our debts, our careful wives, our children, and Our sins, lay on the king; — we must bear all. O hard condition! twin-born with greatness, Subjected to the breath of every fool, Whose sense no more can feel but his own wringing! What infinite heart's ease must kings neglect, That private men enjoy?

And what have kings, that privates have not too, Save ceremony, save general ceremony?

And what art thou, thou idol ceremony?

What kind of god art thou, that suffer'st more

Of mortal griefs, than do thy worshippers?

What are thy rents? what are thy comings-in?

O ceremony, show me but thy worth!

What is the soul of adoration?

Art thou aught else but place, degree, and form,

Creating awe and fear in other men?

Wherein thou art less happy being fear'd

Than they in fearing.

What drink'st thou oft, instead of homage sweet,

But poison'd flattery? O, be sick, great greatness,

And bid thy ceremony give the cure!

Think'st thou, the fiery fever will go out

With titles blown with adulation?

Will it give place to flexure and low bending?

Canst thou, when thou command'st the beggar's knee,

Command the health of it? No, thou proud dream,

That play'st so subtly with a king's repose;

I am a king, that find thee; and I know,

'Tis not the balm, the sceptre, and the ball,

The sword, the mace, the crown imperial,

The enter-tissued robe of gold and pearl,

The farced title running ¹⁶⁾ 'fore the king,

The throne he sits on, nor the tide of pomp

That beats upon the high shore of this world,

No, not all these, thrice-gorgeous ceremony,

Not all these, laid in bed majestical,

Can sleep so soundly as the wretched slave; ¹⁷⁾

Who, with a body fill'd, and vacant mind,

Gets him to rest, cramm'd with distressful bread;

Never sees horrid night, the child of hell;

But, like a lackey, from the rise to set, Sweats in the eye of Phoebus, and all night Sleeps in Elysium; next day, after dawn, Doth rise, and help Hyperion to his horse; And follows so the ever-running year With profitable labour, to his grave: And, but for ceremony, such a wretch, Winding up days with toil, and nights with sleep, Had the fore-hand and vantage of a king. The slave, a member of the country's peace, Enjoys it; but in gross brain little wots, What watch the king keeps to maintain the peace, Whose hours the peasant best advantages. ¹⁸⁾

Enter ERPINGHAM.

Erp. My lord, your nobles, jealous of your absence, Seek through your camp to find you.

K. Hen. Good old knight, Collect them all together at my tent: I'll be before thee.

Erp. I shall do't, my lord. [Exit.]

K. Hen. O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts! Possess them not with fear; take from them now The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers Pluck their hearts from them! — Not to-day, O Lord, O not to-day, think not upon the fault My father made in compassing the crown! I Richard's body have interred new; And on it have bestow'd more contrite tears, Than from it issued forced drops of blood. Five hundred poor I have in yearly pay, Who twice a day their wither'd hands hold up Toward heaven, to pardon blood; and I have built Two chantries, ¹⁹⁾ where the sad and solemn priests Sing still for Richard's soul. More will I do: Though all that I can do, is nothing worth; Since that my penitence comes after all, Imploring pardon.

Enter GLOSTER.

Glo. My liege!

K. Hen. My brother Gloster's voice? — Ay; I know thy errand, I will go with thee: — The day, my friends, and all things stay for me. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

The French Camp.

Enter DAUPHIN, ORLEANS, RAMBURES, and others.

Orl. The sun doth gild our armour; up, my lords. Dau. *Montez à cheval*: — My horse! *valet! lac-quay!* ha!

Orl. O brave spirit!

Dau. *Via!* — *les eaux et la terre* — ²⁰⁾

Orl. *Rien puis? l'air et le feu* —

Dau. *Ciel!* Cousin Orleans. —

Enter Constable.

Now, my lord Constable!

Con. Hark, how our steeds for present service neigh.

Dau. Mount them, and make incision in their hides; That their hot blood may spin in English eyes, And dout them ²¹⁾ with superfluous courage: Ha!

Ram. What, will you have them weep our horses' blood?

How shall we then behold their natural tears?

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The English are embattled, you French peers.

Con. To horse, you gallant princes! straight to horse!

Do but behold yon poor and starved band,

And your fair show shall suck away their souls,
Leaving them but the shales and husks of men.
There is not work enough for all our hands;
Scarce blood enough in all their sickly veins,
To give each naked curtle-ax a stain,
That our French gallants shall to-day draw out,
And sheath for lack of sport: let us but blow on them,
The vapour of our valour will o'erturn them.
'Tis positive 'gainst all exceptions, lords,
That our superfluous lackeys, and our peasants, —
Who, in unnecessary action, swarm
About our squares of battle, — were enough
To purge this field of such a hilding foe; ²²⁾
Though we, upon this mountain's basis by,
Took stand for idle speculation:
But that our honours must not. What's to say?
A very little little let us do,
And all is done. Then let the trumpets sound
The tucket-sonance, ²³⁾ and the note to mount:
For our approach shall so much dare the field,
That England shall couch down in fear, and yield.

Enter GRANDPRE.

Grand. Why do you stay so long, my lords of France?

Yon island carrions, desperate of their bones,
Ill-favour'dly become the morning field:
Their ragged curtains poorly are let loose, ²⁴⁾
And our air shakes them passing scornfully.
Big Mars seems bankrupt in their beggar'd host,
And faintly through a rusty beaver peeps.
Their horsemen sit like fixed candlesticks,
With torch-staves in their hand: ²⁵⁾ and their poor
jades
Lob down their heads, dropping the hides and hips;
The gum down-roping from their pale-dead eyes;
And in their pale dull mouths the gimmel bit ²⁶⁾
Lies foul with chew'd grass, still and motionless;
And their executors, the knavish crows,
Fly o'er them all, impatient for their hour.
Description cannot suit itself in words,
To demonstrate the life of such a battle
In life so lifeless as it shows itself.

Con. They have said their prayers, and they stay for death.

Dau. Shall we go send them dinners, and fresh suits,
And give their fasting horses provender,
And after fight with them?

Con. I stay but for my guard; ²⁷⁾ On, to the field:
I will the banner from a trumpet take,
And use it for my haste. Come, come away!
The sun is high, and we outwear the day. [Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

The English Camp.

Enter the English Host; GLOSTER, BEDFORD, EXETER, SALISBURY, and WESTMORELAND.

Glo. Where is the king?

Bed. The king himself is rode to view their battle.
West. Of fighting men they have full threescore thousand.

Exe. There's five to one; besides, they all are fresh.
Sal. God's arm strike with us! 'tis a fearful odds.
God be wi' you, princes all; I'll to my charge:
If we no more meet, till we meet in heaven,
Then joyfully, — my noble lord of Bedford, —
My dear lord Gloster, — and my good lord Exeter, —
And my kind kinsman, — warriors all, adieu!

Bed. Farewell, good Salisbury; and good luck go with thee!
Exe. Farewell, kind lord, fight valiantly to-day;

HK.

And yet I do thee wrong, to mind thee of it,
For thou art fram'd of the firm truth of valour.

Bed. He is as full of valour, as of kindness;
Princely in both. [Exit SALISBURY.]

West. O that we now had here

Enter King HENRY.

But one ten thousand of those men in England,
That do no work to-day!

K. Hen. What's he, that wishes so?
My cousin Westmoreland? — No, my fair cousin:
If we are mark'd to die, we are enough
To do our country loss; and if to live,
The fewer men, the greater share of honour.
God's will! I pray thee, wish not one man more.
By Jove, I am not covetous for gold;
Nor care I, who doth feed upon my cost;
It yearns me not, ²⁸⁾ if men my garments wear;
Such outward things dwell not in my desires:
But, if it be a sin to covet honour,
I am the most offending soul alive.

No, 'faith, my coz, wish not a man from England:
God's peace! I would not lose so great an honour,
As one man more, methinks, would share from me,
For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one more:
Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my host,
That he, which hath no stomach to this fight,
Let him depart; his passport shall be made,
And crowns for convoy put into his purse:
We would not die in that man's company,
That fears his fellowship to die with us.

This day is call'd — the feast of Crispian: ²⁹⁾
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He, that shall live this day, and see old age,
Will yearly on the vigil feast his friends,
And say — to-morrow is saint Crispian;
Then will he strip his sleeve, and show his scars,
And say, — these wounds I had on Crispian's day.
Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot,
But he'll remember, with advantages, ³⁰⁾
What feats he did that day: Then shall our names,
Familiar in their mouths as household words, —
Harry the king, Bedford, and Exeter,
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster, —
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd:
This story shall the good man teach his son;
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending ³¹⁾ of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered:

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he, to-day that sheds his blood with me,
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition: ³²⁾
And gentlemen in England, now a-bed,
Shall think themselves accurs'd, they were not here;
And hold their manhoods cheap, while any speaks,
That fought with us upon saint Crispian's day. ³³⁾

Enter SALISBURY.

Sal. My sovereign lord, bestow yourself with speed;
The French are bravely in their battles set,
And will with all expedience charge on us.

K. Hen. All things are ready, if our minds be so.
West. Perish the man, whose mind is backward now!
K. Hen. Thou dost not wish more help from England, cousin?

West. God's will, my liege, 'would you and I alone,
Without more help, might fight this battle out!

K. Hen. Why, now thou hast unwish'd five thousand men;

Which likes me better, than to wish us one. —
You know your places: God be with you all!

Tucket. Enter MONTJOY.

Mont. Once more I come to know of thee, king Harry,

If for thy ransom thou wilt now compound,
Before thy most assured overthrow:
For, certainly, thou art so near the gulf,
Thou needs must be englutted. Besides, in mercy,
The constable desires thee — thou wilt mind ³⁴⁾
Thy followers of repentance; that their souls
May make a peaceful and a sweet retire
From off these fields, where (wretches) their poor
bodies

Must lie and fester.

K. Hen. Who hath sent thee now?

Mont. The constable of France.

K. Hen. I pray thee, bear my former answer back;
Bid them achieve me, and then sell my bones.
Good God! why should they mock poor fellows thus?
The man, that once did sell the lion's skin
While the beast liv'd, was kill'd with hunting him.
A many of our bodies shall, no doubt,
Find native graves; upon the which, I trust,
Shall witness live in brass ³⁵⁾ of this day's work:
And those that leave their valiant bones in France,
Dying like men, though buried in your dunghills,
They shall be fam'd; for there the sun shall greet them,
And draw their honours reeking up to heaven;
Leaving their earthly parts to choke your clime,
The smell whereof shall breed a plague in France.
³⁶⁾ Mark then a bounding valour in our English;
That, being dead, like to the bullet's grazing,
Break out into a second course of mischief,
Killing in relapse of mortality.

Let me speak proudly; — Tell the constable,
We are but warriors for the working-day: ³⁷⁾
Our gayness, and our gilt, ³⁸⁾ are all besmirch'd
With rainy marching in the painful field;
There's not a piece of feather in our host,
(Good argument, I hope, we shall not fly.)
And time hath worn us into slovenry:
But, by the mass, our hearts are in the trim:
And my poor soldiers tell me — yet ere night
They'll be in fresher robes; or they will pluck
The gay new coats o'er the French soldiers' heads,
And turn them out of service. If they do this,
(As, if God please, they shall,) my ransom then
Will soon be levied. Herald, save thou thy labour;
Come thou no more for ransom, gentle herald;
They shall have none, I swear, but these my joints:
Which if they have as I will leave 'em to them,
Shall yield them little, tell the constable.

Mont. I shall, king Harry. And so fare thee well:
Thou never shalt hear herald any more. [Exit.]

K. Hen. I fear, thou'lt once more come again for ransom.

Enter the Duke of YORK.

York. My lord, most humbly on my knee I beg
The leading of the vaward.

K. Hen. Take it, brave York. — Now, soldiers,
march away.

And how thou pleasest, God, dispose the day!

[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

The Field of Battle.

Alarums: Excursions. Enter French Soldier,
Pistol, and Boy.

Pist. Yield, cur.

Fr. Sol. *Je pense, que vous estes le gentilhomme de bonne qualité.*

Pist. Quality, call you me? — Construe me, ³⁹⁾ art thou a gentleman? What is thy name? discuss.

Fr. Sol. *O seigneur Dieu.*

Pist. O, signieur Dew should be a gentleman: — Perpend my words, O signieur Dew, and mark, — O signieur Dew, thou diest on point of fox, ⁴⁰⁾ Except, O signieur, thou do give to me Egregious ransom.

Fr. Sol. *O, prenez misericorde! ayez pitié de moy!*

Pist. Moy shall not serve, I will have forty moys; For I will fetch thy rim out at thy throat, In drops of crimson blood.

Fr. Sol. *Est il impossible d'eschapper la force de ton bras?*

Pist. Brass, cur!

Thou damned and luxurious mountain goat, ⁴¹⁾

Offer'st me brass?

Fr. Sol. *O pardonnez moy!*

Pist. Say'st thou me so? is that a ton of moys? ⁴²⁾ Come hither, boy; Ask me this slave in French, What is his name.

Boy. *Escoutez; Comment estes vous appellé?*

Fr. Sol. *Monsieur Le Fer.*

Boy. He says his name is — master Fer.

Pist. Master Fer! I'll fer him, and firr him, ⁴³⁾ and ferret him: — discuss the same in French unto him.

Boy. I do not know the French for fer, and ferret, and firr.

Pist. Bid him prepare, for I will cut his throat.

Fr. Sol. *Que dit-il, monsieur?*

Boy. *Il me commande de vous dire que vous faites vous prest; car ce soldat icy est disposé tout à cette heure de couper vostre gorge.*

Pist. Ouy, couper gorge, par may foy, pesant, Unless thou give me crowns, brave crowns; Or mangled shalt thou be by this my sword.

Fr. Sol. *O, je vous supplie pour l'amour de Dieu, me pardonner! Je suis gentilhomme de bonne maison; gardez ma vie, et je vous donneray deux cents escus.*

Pist. What are his words?

Boy. He prays you to save his life: he is a gentleman of a good house; and, for his ransom, he will give you two hundred crowns.

Pist. Tell him, — my fury shall abate, and I The crowns will take.

Fr. Sol. *Petit monsieur, que dit-il?*

Boy. *Encore qu'il est contre son jurement, de pardonner aucun prisonnier; neantmoins, pour les escus que vous l'avez promis, il est content de vous donner la liberté, le franchisement.*

Fr. Sol. *Sur mes genoux, je vous donne mille remerciemens: et je m'estime heureux que je suis tombé entre les mains d'un chevalier, je pense, le plus brave, valiant, et tres distingué seigneur d'Angleterre.*

Pist. Expound unto me, boy.

Boy. He gives you, upon his knees, a thousand thanks: and he esteems himself happy that he hath fallen into the hands of (as he thinks) the most brave, valorous, and thrice-worthy signieur of England.

Pist. As I suck blood, I will some mercy show. — Follow me, cur. [Exit Pistol.]

Boy. *Suivez vous le grand capitaine.*

[Exit French Soldier.]

I did never know so full a voice issue from so empty a heart: but the saying is true, — the empty vessel makes the greatest sound. Bardolph and Nym, had ten times more valour than this roaring devil i'the

HK.

old play, that every one may pare his nails with a wooden dagger; and they are both hanged; and so would this be, if he durst steal any thing adventurously. I must stay with the lackeys, with the luggage of our camp: the French might have a good prey of us, if he knew of it; for there is none to guard it, but boys.

[Exit.]

SCENE V.

Another Part of the Field of Battle.

Alarums. Enter DAUPHIN, ORLEANS, BOURBON, Constable, RAMBURES, and others.

Con. O diable!

Orl. O seigneur — le jour est perdu, tout est perdu!

Dau. Mort de ma vie! all is confounded, all!

Reproach and everlasting shame

Sits mocking in our plumes. — O meschante fortune!

Do not run away.

[A short Alarum.]

Con.

Why, all our ranks are broke.

Dau. Operdurable shame! — let's stab ourselves.

Be these the wretches that we play'd at dice for?

Orl. Is this the king we sent to for his ransom?

Bour. Shame, and eternal shame, nothing but shame!

Let us die instant: ⁴⁵ Once more back again;

And he that will not follow Bourbon now,

Let him go hence, and, with his cap in hand,

Like a base pander, hold the chamber-door,

Whilst by a slave, no gentler ⁴⁶ than my dog,

His fairest daughter is contaminate.

Con. Disorder, that hath spoil'd us, friend us now!

Let us, in heaps, go offer up our lives

Unto these English, or else die with fame.

Orl. We are enough, yet living in the field,

To smother up the English in our throngs,

If any order might be thought upon.

Bour. The devil take order now! I'll to the throng;

Let life be short; else shame will be too long.

[Exit.]

SCENE VI.

Another Part of the Field.

Alarums. Enter King HENRY, and Forces; EXETER, and others.

K. Hen. Well have we done, thrice-vaillant countrymen:

But all's not done, yet keep the French the field.

Exe. The duke of York commends him to your majesty.

K. Hen. Lives he, good uncle? thrice within this hour,

I saw him down; thrice up again, and fighting;

From helmet to the spur, all blood he was.

Exe. In which array, (brave soldier,) doth he lie,

Larding the plain: and by his bloody side,

(Yoke-fellow to his honour-owing wounds,) The noble earl of Suffolk also lies.

Suffolk first died: and York, all haggled over,

Comes to him, where in gore he lay insteep'd,

And takes him by the beard; kisses the gashes,

That bloodily did yawn upon his face;

And cries aloud, — Tarry, dear cousin Suffolk!

My soul shall thine keep company to heaven:

Tarry, sweet soul, for mine, then fly a-breast;

As, in this glorious and well-foughten field,

We kept together in our chivalry!

Upon these words I came, and cheer'd him up:

He smil'd me in the face, caught ⁴⁷ me his hand,

And, with a feeble gripe, says, — Dear my lord,

Commend my service to my sovereign.

So did he turn, and over Suffolk's neck

He threw his wounded arm, and kiss'd his lips;

And so, espous'd to death, with blood he seal'd

A testament of noble-ending love.

The pretty and sweet manner of it forc'd

Those waters from me, which I would have stopp'd;

But I had not so much of man in me,

But all my mother came into mine eyes,

And gave me up to tears.

K. Hen. I blame you not;

For, hearing this, I must perforce compound

⁴⁸ With mistful eyes, or they will issue too. —

[Alarum.]

But, hark! what new alarum is this same?

The French have reforc'd their scatter'd men: —

Then every soldier kill his prisoners;

Give the word through.

[Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.

Another Part of the Field.

Alarums. Enter FLUELLEN and GOWER.

Flu. Kill the poys and the luggage! 'tis expressly

against the law of arms: 'tis as arrant a piece of

knavery, mark you now, as can be offered, in the

'orld: In your conscience now, is it not?

Gow. 'Tis certain there's not a boy left alive; and

the cowardly rascals, that ran from the battle, have

done this slaughter: besides, they have burned and

carried away all that was in the king's tent; where-

fore the king, most worthily, hath caused every

soldier to cut his prisoner's throat. O, 'tis a gal-

lant king!

Flu. Ay, he was porn at Monmouth, captain Gower;

What call you the town's name, where Alexander

the pig was born?

Gow. Alexander the great.

Flu. Why, I pray you, is not pig, great? The pig,

or the great, or the mighty, or the huge, or the

magnanimous, are all one reckonings, save the phrase

is a little variations.

Gow. I think Alexander the great was born in

Macedon; his father was called — Philip of Macedon,

as I take it.

Flu. I think it is in Macedon, where Alexander is

porn. I tell you, captain, — If you look in the maps

of the 'orld, I warrant, you shall find, in the com-

parisons between Macedon and Monmouth, that the

situations, look you, is both alike. There is a river

in Macedon; and there is also moreover a river at

Monmouth; it is called Wye, at Monmouth; but it

is out of my prains, what is the name of the other

river; but 'tis all one, 'tis so like as my fingers is

to my fingers, and there is salmons in both. If you

mark Alexander's life well, Harry of Monmouth's

life is come after it indifferent well; for there is

figures in all things. Alexander (God knows, and

you know,) in his rages, and his furies, and his

wraths, and his cholers, and his moods, and his dis-

pleasures, and his indignations, and also being a

little intoxicates in his prains, did, in his ales and

his angers, look you, kill his pest friend, Clytus.

Gow. Our king is not like him in that; he never

killed any of his friends.

Flu. It is not well done, mark you now, to take

tales out of my mouth, ere it is made an end and

finished. I speak but in the figures and comparisons

of it: As Alexander is kill his friend Clytus, being

in his ales and his cups; so also Harry Monmouth,

being in his right wits and his goot judgments, is

turn away the fat knight ⁴⁹ with the great pelly-

doublet: he was full of jests, and gipes, and knave-

ries, and mocks; I am forget his name.

Gow. Sir John Falstaff.

Flu. That is he: I can tell you, there is goot men

porn at Monmouth.

Gow. Here comes his majesty.

Alarum. Enter King HENRY with a part of the English Forces; WARWICK, GLOSTER, EXETER, and others.

K. Hen. I was not angry since I came to France

Until this instant. — Take a trumpet, herald;

Ride thou unto the horsemen on yon hill;

If they will fight with us, bid them come down,

Or void the field; they do offend our sight:

If they'll do neither, we will come to them;

And make them skirr away, as swift as stones

Enforced from the old Assyrian slings:

Besides, we'll cut the throats of those we have;

And not a man of them, that we shall take,

Shall taste our mercy: — Go, and tell them so.

Enter MONTJOY.

Exe. Here comes the herald of the French, my liege.

Glo. His eyes are humbler than they us'd to be.

K. Hen. How now! what means this, herald?

know'st thou not,

That I have fin'd these bones of mine for ransom?

Com'st thou again for ransom?

Mont. No, great king:

I come to thee for charitable licence,

That we may wander o'er this bloody field,

To book our dead, and then to bury them;

To sort our nobles from our common men;

For many of our princes (woe the while!)

Lie drown'd and soak'd in mercenary blood;

(So do our vulgar drench their peasant limbs

In blood of princes;) and their wounded steeds

Fret fetlock deep in gore, and, with wild rage,

Yerk out their armed heels at their dead masters,

Killing them twice. O, give us leave, great king,

To view the field in safety, and dispose

Of their dead bodies.

K. Hen. I tell thee truly, herald,

I know not, if the day be ours, or no;

For yet a many of your horsemen peer,

And gallop o'er the field.

Mont. The day is yours.

K. Hen. Praised be God, and not our strength,

for it! —

What is this castle call'd, that stands hard by?

Mont. They call it — Agincourt.

K. Hen. Then call we this — the field of Agin-

court,

Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

Flu. Your grandfather of famous memory, an't

please your majesty, and your great uncle Edward

the plack prince of Wales, as I have read in the

chronicles, fought a most prave pattle here in

France.

K. Hen. They did, Fluellen.

Flu. Your majesty says very true: if your majesties

is remembered of it, the Welshmen did goot service

in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks

in their Monmouth caps; which, your majesty knows,

to this hour is an honourable padge of the service;

and, I do believe, your majesty takes no scorn to

wear the leek upon saint Tavy's day.

K. Hen. I wear it for a memorable honour:

For I am Welsh, you know, good countryman.

Flu. All the water in Wye cannot wash your ma-

jesty's Welsh plood out of your pody, I can tell

you that: Got pless it and preserve it, as long as

it pleases his grace, and his majesty too!

K. Hen. Thanks, good my countryman.

Flu. By Cheshu, I am your majesty's countryman.

I care not who know it; I will confess it to all

the 'orld: I need not to be ashamed of your ma-

jesty, praised be God, so long as your majesty is

an honest man.

K. Hen. God keep me so! — Our heralds go with

him;

Bring me just notice of the numbers dead

On both our parts. — Call yonder fellow hither.

[Points to WILLIAMS. [Exeunt MONTJOY and others.]

Exe. Soldier, you must come to the king.

K. Hen. Soldier, why wears't thou that glove in

thy cap?

Will. An't please your majesty, 'tis the gage of

one that I should fight withal, if he be alive.

K. Hen. An Englishman?

Will. An't please your majesty, a rascal, that swag-

gered with me last night: who, if 'a live, and ever

dare to challenge this glove, I have sworn to take

him a box o'the ear: or, if I can see my glove in

his cap (which he swore, as he was a soldier, he

would wear, if alive,) I will strike it out soundly.

K. Hen. What think you, captain Fluellen? is it

fit this soldier keep his oath?

Flu. He is a craven and a villain else, an't please

your majesty, in my conscience.

K. Hen. It may be, his enemy is a gentleman

of great sort, ⁵⁰ quite from the answer of his

degree. ⁵¹

Flu. Though he be as goot a gentleman as the

tevil is, as Lucifer and Belzebub himself, it is ne-

cessary, look your grace, that he keep his vow and

his oath; if he be perjured, see you now, his repu-

tation is as arrant a villain, and a Jack sauce, as

ever his plack shoe trod upon Got's ground and

his earth, in my conscience, la.

K. Hen. Then keep thy vow, sirrah, when thou

meet'st the fellow.

Will. So I will, my liege, as I live.

K. Hen. Who servest thou under?

Will. Under captain Gower, my liege.

Flu. Gower is a goot captain; and is good know-

ledge and literature in the wars.

K. Hen. Call him hither to me, soldier.

Will. I will, my liege. [Exit.]

K. Hen. Here, Fluellen; wear thou this favour for

me, and stick it in thy cap: When Alençon and

myself were down together, I plucked this glove

from his helm; if any man challenge this, he is a

friend to Alençon and an enemy to our person; if

thou encounter any such, apprehend him, an thou

dost love me.

Flu. Your grace does me as great honours, as can

be desired in the hearts of his subjects: I would

fain see the man, that has but two legs, that shall

find himself aggrieved at this glove, that is all; but

By his blunt bearing, he will keep his word.)
Some sudden mischief may arise of it;
For I do know Fluellen valiant,
And, touch'd with choler, hot as gunpowder,
And quickly will return an injury:
Follow, and see there be no harm between them. —
Go you with me, uncle of Exeter. *[Exeunt.]*

SCENE VIII.

Before King Henry's Pavilion.

Enter GOWER and WILLIAMS.

Will. I warrant, it is to knight you, captain.

Enter FLUELLEN.

Flu. Got's will and his pleasure, captain, I peseech you now, come apace to the king: there is more goot toward you, peradventure, than is in your knowledge to dream of.

Will. Sir, know you this glove?

Flu. Know the glove? I know, the glove is a glove.

Will. I know this; and thus I challenge it.

[Strikes him.]

Flu. 'Sblud, an arrant traitor, as any's in the universal 'orld, or in France, or in England.

Gow. How now, sir? you villain!

Will. Do you think I'll be forsworn?

Flu. Stand away, captain Gower; I will give treason his payment into plows, I warrant you.

Will. I am no traitor.

Flu. That's a lie in thy throat. — I charge you in his majesty's name, apprehend him; he's a friend of the duke Alençon's.

Enter WARWICK and GLOSTER.

War. How now, how now! what's the matter?

Flu. My lord of Warwick, here is (praised be Got for it!) a most contagious treason come to light, look you, as you shall desire in a summer's day. Here is his majesty.

Enter King HENRY and EXETER.

K. Hen. How now! what's the matter?

Flu. My liege, here is a villain, and a traitor, that, look your grace, has struck the glove which your majesty is take out of the helmet of Alençon.

Will. My liege, this was my glove; here is the fellow of it: and he, that I gave it to in change, promised to wear it in his cap; I promised to strike him, if he did: I met this man with my glove in his cap, and I have been as good as my word.

Flu. Your majesty hear now, (saying your majesty's manhood,) what an arrant, rascally, beggarly, lowsy knave it is: I hope, your majesty is pear me testimony, and witness, and avouchments, that this is the glove of Alençon, that your majesty is give me, in your conscience now.

K. Hen. Give me thy glove, soldier; Look, here is the fellow of it. 'Twas I, indeed, thou promised'st to strike; and thou hast given me most bitter terms.

Flu. An please your majesty, let his neck answer for it, if there is any martial law in the 'orld.

K. Hen. How canst thou make me satisfaction?

Will. All offences, my liege, come from the heart: never came any from mine, that might offend your majesty.

K. Hen. It was ourself thou didst abuse.

Will. Your majesty came not like yourself: you appeared to me but as a common man; witness the

night, your garments, your lowliness; and what your highness suffered under that shape, I beseech you, take it for your own fault, and not mine: for had you been as I took you for, I made no offence; therefore, I beseech your highness, pardon me.

K. Hen. Here, uncle Exeter, fill this glove with crowns,

And give it to this fellow. — Keep it, fellow;

And wear it for an honour in thy cap,

Till I do challenge it. — Give him the crowns; —

And, captain, you must needs be friends with him.

Flu. By this day and this light, the fellow has mettle enough in his pelly: — Hold, there is twelve pence for you, and I pray you to serve Got, and keep you out of prawls, and prabbles, and quarrels, and dissensions, and, I warrant you, it is the petter for you.

Will. I will none of your money.

Flu. It is with a goot will; I can tell you, it will serve you to mend your shoes: Come, wherefore should you be so pashful? your shoes is not so goot: 'tis a goot silling, I warrant you, or I will change it.

Enter an English Herald.

K. Hen. Now, herald; are the dead number'd?

Her. Here is the number of the slaughter'd French.

[Delivers a paper.]

K. Hen. What prisoners of good sort are taken, uncle?

Exe. Charles duke of Orleans, nephew to the king; John duke of Bourbon, and lord Bouciquault; Of other lords, and barons, knights, and 'squires, Full fifteen hundred, besides common men.

K. Hen. This note doth tell me of ten thousand French,

That in the field lie slain: of princes, in this number, And nobles bearing banners, there lie dead

One hundred twenty-six: added to these, Of knights, esquires, and gallant gentlemen,

Eight thousand and four hundred; of the which, Five hundred were but yesterday dubb'd knights:

So that, in these ten thousand they have lost, There are but sixteen hundred mercenaries;

The rest are — princes, barons, lords, knights, 'squires,

And gentlemen of blood and quality.

The names of those their nobles that lie dead, — Charles De-la-bret, high constable of France;

Jaques of Chatillon, admiral of France;

The master of the cross-bows, lord Rambures;

Great master of France, the brave sir Guischart Dauphin;

John duke of Alençon; Antony duke of Brabant,

The brother to the duke of Burgundy;

And Edward duke of Bar: of lusty earls, Grandpré, and Roussi, Fauconberg, and Foix,

Beaumont, and Marle, Vaudemont, and Lestrale.

Here was a royal fellowship of death! —

Where is the number of our English dead?

[Herald presents another paper.]

Edward the duke of York, the earl of Suffolk,

Sir Richard Ketly, Davy Gam, esquire:

None else of name; and, of all other men,

But five and twenty. O God, thy arm was here,

And not to us, but to thy arm alone,

Ascribe we all. — When, without stratagem,

But in plain shock, and even play of battle,

Was ever known so great and little loss,

On one part and on the other? — Take it, God,

For it is only thine!

Exe. 'Tis wonderful!

SCENE I.

France. An English Court of Guard.

Enter FLUELLEN and GOWER.

Gow. Nay, that's right; but why wear you your leek to-day? Saint Davy's day is past.

Flu. There is occasions and causes why and wherefore in all things: I will tell you, as my friend, captain Gower; The rascally, scald, beggarly, lowsy, praggling knave, Pistol, — which you and yourself, and all the 'orld, know to be no petter than a fellow, look you now, of no merits, — he is come to me, and brings me pread and salt yesterday, look you, and bid me eat my leek: it was in a place where I could not breed no contentions with him; but I will be so pold as to wear it in my cap till I see him once again, and then I will tell him a little piece of my desires.

Enter PISTOL.

Gow. Why, here he comes, swelling like a turkey-cock.

Flu. 'Tis no matter for his swellings, nor his turkey-cocks. — Got bless you, ancient Pistol! you scurvy, lowsy knave, Got bless you!

Pist. Ah! art thou Bedlam? dost thou thirst, base Trojan,

To have me fold up Parca's fatal web? Hence! I am qualmish at the smell of leek.

Flu. I peseech you heartily, scurvy, lowsy knave, at my desires, and my requests, and my petitions, to eat, look you, this leek; because, look you, you do not love it, nor your affections, and your appetites, and your digestions, does not agree with it, I would desire you to eat it.

Pist. Not for Cadwallader, and all his goats.

Flu. There is one goat for you. *[Strikes him.]*

Will you be so goot, scald knave, as eat it?

Pist. Base Trojan, thou shalt die.

Flu. You say very true, scald knave, when Got's will is: I will desire you to live in the mean time, and eat your victuals; come, there is sauce for it. *[Striking him again.]* You called me yesterday, mountain-squire; but I will make you to-day a squire of low degree. I pray you, fall to; if you can mock a leek, you can eat a leek.

Gow. Enough, captain; you have astonished him.

Flu. I say, I will make him eat some part of my leek, or I will peat his pate four days: — Pite, I pray you; it is goot for your green wound, and your bloody coxcomb.

Pist. Must I bite?

Flu. Yes, certainly; and out of doubt, and out of questions too, and ambiguities.

Pist. By this leek, I will most horribly revenge; I eat, and eke I swear. —

Flu. Eat, I pray you: will you have some more sauce to your leek? there is not enough leek to swear by.

Pist. Quiet thy cudgel; thou dost see, I eat.

Flu. Much goot do you, scald knave, heartily. Nay, pray you, throw none away; the skin is goot for your proken coxcomb. When you take occasions to see leeks hereafter, I pray you, mock at them; that is all.

Pist. Good.

Flu. Ay, leeks is goot: — Hold you there is a groat to heal your pate.

Pist. Me a groat!

Flu. Yes, verily, and in truth, you shall take it; or I have another leek in my pocket, which you shall eat.

Pist. I take thy groat, in earnest of revenge.

Flu. If I owe you any thing, I will pay you in cudgels; you shall be a woodmonger, and buy nothing of me but cudgels. God be wi' you, and keep you, and heal your pate. [Exit.]

Pist. All hell shall stir for this.

Gow. Go, go; you are a counterfeit cowardly knave. Will you mock at an ancient tradition, — begun upon an honourable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of pre-deceased valour, — and dare not avouch in your deeds any of your words? I have seen you gleeking⁹⁾ and galling at this gentleman twice or thrice. You thought, because he could not speak English in the native garb, he could not therefore handle an English cudgel: you find it otherwise; and, henceforth, let a Welsh correction teach you a good English condition.¹⁰⁾ Fare ye well. [Exit.]

Pist. Doth fortune play the huswife¹¹⁾ with me now?

News have I, that my Nell is dead i'the spital Of malady of France;
And there my rendezvous is quite cut off.
Old I do wax; and from my weary limbs
Honour is cudgell'd. Well, bawd will I turn,
And something lean to cutpurse of quick hand.
To England will I steal, and there I'll steal:
And patches will I get unto these scars,
And swear I got them in the Gallia wars. [Exit.]¹²⁾

SCENE II.

Troyes in Champagne. An Apartment in the French King's Palace.

Enter at one door, King HENRY, BEDFORD, GLOSTER, EXETER, WARWICK, WESTMORELAND, and other Lords; at another, the French King, Queen ISABEL, the Princess KATHARINE, Lords, Ladies, &c., the Duke of BURGUNDY, and his Train.

K. Hen. Peace to this meeting, wherefore we are met!

Unto our brother France, — and to our sister, Health and fair time of day: — joy and good wishes To our most fair and princely cousin Katharine; And (as a branch and member of this royalty, By whom this great assembly is contriv'd,) We do salute you, duke of Burgundy; —

And, princes French, and peers, health to you all!

Fr. King. Right joyous are we to behold your face, Most worthy brother England; fairly met: — So are you, princes English, every one.

Q. Isa. So happy be the issue, brother England, Of this good day, and of this gracious meeting, As we are now glad to behold your eyes;

Your eyes, which hitherto have borne in them Against the French, that met them in their bent, The fatal balls of murdering basilisks:

The venom of such looks, we fairly hope, Have lost their quality; and that this day Shall change all griefs, and quarrels, into love.

K. Hen. To cry amen to that thus we appear.

Q. Isa. You English princes all, I do salute you.

Bur. My duty to you both, on equal love, Great kings of France and England! That I have labour'd

With all my wits, my pains, and strong endeavours, To bring your most imperial majesties

Unto this bar¹³⁾ and royal interview, Your mightiness on both parts best can witness.

Since then my office hath so far prevail'd, That face to face, and royal eye to eye,

You have congregated; let it not disgrace me,

If I demand, before this royal view, What rub, or what impediment, there is, Why that the naked, poor, and mangled peace, Dear nurse of arts, plenties, and joyful births, Should not, in this best garden of the world, Our fertile France, put up her lovely visage?

Alas! she hath from France too long been chas'd; And all her husbandry doth lie on heaps, Corrupting in its own fertility.

Her vine, the merry cheerer of the heart, Unpruned dies: her hedges even-pleached, — Like prisoners wildly over-grown with hair,

Put forth disorder'd twigs: her fallow leas, The darnel, hemlock, and rank fumitory, Doth root upon; while that the coulter rusts,

That should deracinate¹⁴⁾ such savagery: The even mead, that erst brought sweetly forth The freckled cowslip, burnet, and green clover,

Wanting the scythe, all uncorrected, rank, Conceives by idleness; and nothing teems, But hateful docks, rough thistles, kecksies, burs,

Losing both beauty and utility. And as our vineyards, fallows, meads, and hedges, Defective in their natures, grow to wildness;

Even so our houses, and ourselves, and children, Have lost, or do not learn, for want of time, The sciences that should become our country;

But grow, like savages, — as soldiers will, That nothing do but meditate on blood, — To swearing, and stern looks, diffus'd attire,¹⁵⁾

And every thing that seems unnatural. Which to reduce into our former favour,¹⁶⁾ You are assembled: and my speech entreats,

That I may know the let, why gentle peace Should not expel these inconveniences, And bless us with her former qualities.

K. Hen. If, duke of Burgundy, you would the peace, Whose want gives growth to the imperfections Which you have cited, you must buy that peace

With full accord to all our just demands; Whose tenours and particular effects You have, enschedul'd briefly, in your hands.

Bur. The king hath heard them; to the which, as yet, There is no answer made.

K. Hen. Well then, the peace, Which you before so urg'd, lies in his answer.

Fr. King. I have but with a cursory eye O'er-glanc'd the articles: pleaseth your grace To appoint some of your counsel presently

To sit with us once more, with better heed To re-survey them, we will, suddenly, Pass our accept, and peremptory answer.¹⁷⁾

K. Hen. Brother, we shall. — Go, uncle Exeter, — And brother Clarence, — and you, brother Gloster, — Warwick, — and Huntingdon, — go with the king:

And take with you free power, to ratify, Augment, or alter, as your wisdoms best Shall see advantageable for our dignity,

Any thing in, or out of, our demands; And we'll consign thereto. — Will you, fair sister, Go with the princes, or stay here with us?

Q. Isa. Our gracious brother, I will go with them; Haply, a woman's voice may do some good, When articles, too nicely urg'd, be stood on.

K. Hen. Yet leave our cousin Katharine here with us; She is our capital demand, compris'd Within the fore rank of our articles.

Q. Isa. She hath good leave. [Exit all but HENRY, KATHARINE, and her Gentlewoman.]

K. Hen. Fair Katharine, and most fair!

Will you vouchsafe to teach a soldier terms,

Such as will enter at a lady's ear,

And plead his love-suit to her gentle heart?

Kath. Your majesty shall mock at me; I cannot speak your England.

K. Hen. O fair Katharine, if you will love me soundly with your French heart, I will be glad to hear you confess it brokenly with your English tongue. Do you like me, Kate?

Kath. Pardonnez moy, I cannot tell vat is — like me.

K. Hen. An angel is like you, Kate; and you are like an angel.

Kath. Que dit-il? que je suis semblable à les anges?

Alice. Ouy, vrayment, (sauf vostre grace) ainsi dit-il.

K. Hen. I said so, dear Katharine; and I must not blush to affirm it.

Kath. O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes sont pleines des tromperies.

K. Hen. What says she, fair one? that the tongues of men are full of deceits?

Alice. Ouy; dat de tongues of de mans is be full of deceits: dat is de princess.

K. Hen. The princess is the better English-woman. I'faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy understanding. I am glad, thou can'st speak no better English; for,

if thou could'st, thou would'st find me such a plain king,¹⁸⁾ that thou would'st think, I had sold my farm to buy my crown. I know no ways to mince it in love, but directly to say — I love you: then,

if you urge me further than to say — Do you in faith? I wear out my suit. Give me your answer; i'faith, do; and so clap hands and a bargain: How say you, lady?

Kath. Sauf vostre honneur, me understand well.

K. Hen. Marry, if you would put me to verses, or to dance for your sake, Kate, why you undid me: for the one, I have neither words nor measure; and

for the other, I have no strength in measure,¹⁹⁾ yet a reasonable measure in strength. If I could win a lady at leap-frog, or by vaulting into my saddle with my armour on my back, under the correction of bragging be it spoken, I should quickly

leap into a wife. Or, if I might buffet for my love, or bound my horse for her favours, I could lay on like a butcher, and sit like a jack-an-apes, never off: but, before God, I cannot look greenly,²⁰⁾ nor gasp out my eloquence, nor I have no cunning in protestation; only downright oaths, which I never use till urged, nor never break for urging. If thou canst love a fellow of this temper, Kate, whose face is not worth sun-burning, that never looks in his glass for love of any thing he sees there, let thine eye be thy cook. I speak to thee plain soldier: If thou canst love me for this, take me: if not, to say to thee — that I shall die, is true: but — for thy love, by the Lord, no; yet I love thee too.

And while thou livest, dear Kate, take a fellow of plain and uncoined constancy;²¹⁾ for he perforce must do thee right, because he hath not the gift to woo in other places: for these fellows of infinite tongue, that can rhyme themselves into ladies' favours, — they do always reason themselves out again.

What! a speaker is but a prater; a rhyme is but a ballad. A good leg will fall; a straight back will stoop; a black beard will turn white: a curled pate will grow bald; a fair face will wither; a full eye will wax hollow; but a good heart, Kate, is the sun and moon; or, rather the sun, and not the moon; for it shines bright, and never changes, but keeps his course truly. If thou would have such a one, take me: And take me, take a soldier; take a sol-

dier, take a king: And what sayest thou then to my love? speak, my fair, and fairly, I pray thee.

Kath. Is it possible dat I should love de enemy of France?

K. Hen. No; it is not possible, you should love the enemy of France, Kate; but, in loving me, you should love the friend of France; for I love France so well, that I will not part with a village of it; I will have it all mine: and, Kate, when France is mine, and I am yours, then yours is France, and you are mine.

Kath. I cannot tell vat is dat.

K. Hen. No, Kate? I will tell thee in French; which, I am sure, will hang upon my tongue like a new-married wife about her husband's neck, hardly to be shook off. Quand j'ay la possession de France, et quand vous avez le possession de moi, (let me see, what then? Saint Dennis be my speed!) — donc vostre est France, et vous estes mienne. It is as easy for me, Kate, to conquer the kingdom, as to speak so much more French: I shall never move thee in French, unless it be to laugh at me.

Kath. Sauf vostre honneur, le François que vous parlez, est meilleur que l'Anglois lequel je parle.

K. Hen. No, i'faith, is't not, Kate; but thy speaking of my tongue, and I thine, most truly falsely, must needs be granted to be much at one. But, Kate, dost thou understand thus much English? Canst thou love me?

Kath. I cannot tell.

K. Hen. Can any of your neighbours tell, Kate? I'll ask them. Come, I know thou lovest me: and at night when you come into your closet, you'll question this gentlewoman about me; and I know, Kate, you will, to her, dispraise those parts in me, that you love with your heart: but, good Kate, mock me mercifully; the rather, gentle princess, because I love thee cruelly. If ever thou be'st mine, Kate, (as I have a saving faith within me, tells me, — thou shalt,) I get thee with scrambling, and thou must therefore needs prove a good soldier-breeder: Shall not thou and I, between saint Dennis and saint George, compound a boy, half French, half English, that shall go to Constantinople, and take the Turk by the beard? shall we not? what sayest thou, my fair flower-de-luce?

Kath. I do not know dat.

K. Hen. No; 'tis hereafter to know, but now to promise: do but now promise, Kate, you will endeavour for your French part of such a boy; and, for my English moiety, take the word of a king and a bachelor. How answer you, la plus belle Katharine du monde, mon tres chere et divine deesse?

Kath. Your majesté 'ave fausse French enough to deceive de most sage demoiselle dat is en France.

K. Hen. Now, fye upon my false French! By mine honour, in true English, I love thee, Kate: by which honour I dare not swear, thou lovest me; yet my blood begins to flatter me that thou dost, notwithstanding the poor and untempering effect²²⁾ of my visage. Now beshrew my father's ambition! he was thinking of civil wars when he got me; therefore was I created with a stubborn outside, with an aspect of iron, that, when I come to woo ladies, I fright them. But, in faith, Kate, the elder I wax, the better I shall appear: my comfort is, that old age, that ill-layer-up of beauty, can do no more spoil upon my face: thou hast me, if thou hast me at the worst; and thou shalt wear me, if thou wear me, better and better; And there-

fore tell me, most fair Katharine, will you have me? Put off your maiden blushes: avouch the thoughts of your heart with the looks of an empress; take me by the hand, and say — Harry of England, I am thine: which word thou shalt no sooner bless mine ear withal, but I will tell thee aloud — England is thine, Ireland is thine, France is thine, and Henry Plantagenet is thine; who, though I speak it before his face, if he be not fellow with the best king, thou shalt find the best king of good fellows. Come, your answer in broken music; for thy voice is music, and thy English broken: therefore, queen of all, Katharine, break thy mind to me in broken English, Wilt thou have me?

Kath. Dat is, as it shall please de *roy mon pere*.

K. Hen. Nay, it will please him well, Kate; it shall please him, Kate.

Kath. Den it shall also content me.

K. Hen. Upon that I will kiss your hand, and I call you — my queen.

Kath. *Laissez, mon seigneur, laissez, laissez: ma foy, je ne veux point que vous abaissez vostre grandeur, en baisant la main d'une vostre indigne serviteure; excusez moy, je vous supplie, mon tres puissant seigneur.*

K. Hen. Then I will kiss your lips, Kate.

Kath. *Les dames, et damoiselles, pour estre baisées devant leur nopces, il n'est pas le coutume de France.*

K. Hen. Madam my interpreter, what says she?

Alice. Dat it is not be de fashion *pour les ladies* of France, — I cannot tell what is, *baiser*, en English.

K. Hen. To kiss.

Alice. Your majesty *entendre* better *que moy*.

K. Hen. It is not the fashion for the maids in France to kiss before they are married, would she say?

Alice. *Ouy, vrayment.*

K. Hen. O, Kate, nice customs curt'sy to great kings. Dear Kate, you and I cannot be confined within the weak list ²³) of a country's fashion: we are the makers of manners, Kate: and the liberty that follows our places, stops the mouths of all find-faults; as I will do yours, for upholding the nice fashion of your country, in denying me a kiss: therefore, patiently, and yielding. [*Kissing her.*] You have witchcraft in your lips, Kate: there is more eloquence in a sugar touch of them, than in the tongues of the French council; and they should sooner persuade Harry of England, than a general petition of monarchs. Here comes your father.

Enter the French KING and QUEEN, BURGUNDY, BEDFORD, GLOSTER, EXETER, WESTMORELAND, and other French and English Lords.

Bur. God save your majesty! my royal cousin, teach you our princess English?

K. Hen. I would have her learn, my fair cousin, how perfectly I love her; and that is good English.

Bur. Is she not apt?

K. Hen. Our tongue is rough, coz; and my condition is not smooth: ²⁴) so that, having neither the voice, nor the heart of flattery about me, I cannot so conjure up the spirit of love in her, that he will appear in his true likeness.

Bur. Pardon the frankness of my mirth, ²⁵) if I answer you for that. If you would conjure in her, you must make a circle: if conjure up love in her in his true likeness, he must appear naked, and blind: Can you blame her then, being a maid yet

rosed over with the virgin crimson of modesty, if she deny the appearance of a naked blind boy in her naked seeing self? It were, my lord, a hard condition for a maid to consign to.

K. Hen. Yet they do wink, and yield; as love is blind, and enforces.

Bur. They are then excused, my lord, when they see not what they do.

K. Hen. Then, good my lord, teach your cousin to consent to winking.

Bur. I will wink on her to consent, my lord, if you will teach her to know my meaning: for maids well summered and warm kept, are like flies at Bartholomew-tide, blind, though they have their eyes: and then they will endure handling, which before would not abide looking on.

K. Hen. This moral ²⁶) ties me over to time, and a hot summer; and so I will catch the fly, your cousin, in the latter end, and she must be blind too.

Bur. As love is, my lord, before it loves.

K. Hen. It is so; and you may, some of you, thank love for my blindness; who cannot see many a fair French city, for one fair French maid that stands in my way.

Fr. King. Yes, my lord, you see them perspective, the cities turned into a maid; for they are all girdled with maiden walls, that war hath never entered.

K. Hen. Shall Kate be my wife?

Fr. King. So please you.

K. Hen. I am content; so the maiden cities you talk of, may wait on her: so the maid, that stood in the way of ²⁷) my wish, shall show me the way to my will.

Fr. King. We have consented to all terms of reason.

K. Hen. Is't so, my lords of England?

West. The king hath granted every article:

His daughter, first; and then, in sequel, all, According to their firm proposed natures.

Exe. Only, he hath not yet subscribed this: —

Where your majesty demands, — That the king of France, having any occasion to write for matter of grant, shall name your highness in this form, and with this addition, in French, — *Notre tres cher filz Henry roy d'Angleterre, heretier de France*; and thus in Latin, — *Præclarissimus filius noster Henricus, rex Angliæ, et hæres Franciæ*.

Fr. King. Nor this I have not, brother, so denied, But your request shall make me let it pass.

K. Hen. I pray you then, in love and dear alliance,

Let that one article rank with the rest:

And, thereupon, give me your daughter.

Fr. King. Take her, fair son; and from her blood raise up

Issue to me: that the contending kingdoms Of France and England, whose very shores look pale

With envy of each other's happiness, May cease their hatred; and this dear conjunction Plant neighbourhood and christian-like accord In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France.

All. Amen!

K. Hen. Now welcome, Kate: — and bear me witness all,

That here I kiss her as my sovereign queen.

[*Flourish.*]

Q. Isa. God, the best maker of all marriages, Combine your hearts in one, your realms in one! As man and wife, being two, are one in love,

So be there 'twixt your kingdoms such a spousal, That never may ill office, or fell jealousy, Which troubles oft the bed of blessed marriage, Thrust in between the paction of these kingdoms, To make divorce of their incorporate league; That English may as French, French Englishmen, Receive each other! — God speak this Amen!

All. Amen!

K. Hen. Prepare we for our marriage: — on which day,

My lord of Burgundy, we'll take your oath, And all the peers', for surety of our leagues. —

Then shall I swear to Kate, and you to me;

And may our oaths well kept and prosperous be!

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter Chorus.

Thus far, with rough, and all unable pen,

Our bending ²⁸) author hath pursu'd the story; In little room confining mighty men, Mangling by starts ²⁹) the full course of their glory.

Small time, but, in that small, most greatly liv'd This star of England: fortune made his sword; By which the world's best garden ³⁰) he achiev'd, And of it left his son imperial lord.

Henry the sixth, in infant bands crown'd king Of France and England, did this king succeed;

Whose state so many had the managing,

That they lost France, and made his England bleed:

Which oft our stage hath shown; and, for their sake,

In your fair minds let this acceptance take.

[*Exit.*]