

B10 Who doubts of Providence, or God denyes

Notes. Raleigh's *History of the World* was first printed in 1614. We include this poem, written in the form of a commendatory verse but circulated in manuscript culture, as evidence at once of the rehabilitation of Raleigh's image during his long imprisonment and of the use of that refurbished image as a weapon to criticize other, unreformed, courtiers. The most likely author, of a number of known writers bearing the name Thomas Scott, is the man who, in 1616, published the politically charged collection of poetic fables, *Philomythie, or, Philomythologie*. (He spelled his name "Scot".)

"Mr Thomas Scott sent these verses, by the hand of Dr John White,¹ to Sir Walter Raleigh; upon the setting forth of his Booke of the History of the World"

Who doubts of Providence, or God denyes;

Let hym thy Booke read, & thy Life advise.

Thy booke doth shew, nothinge directly can

(Save grace infus'd from heaven) informe a man.

Thy life doth likewise shew, that as the Devill

5

Drawes bad from good, God still drawes good from evill.

That at his set and fore-appointed tyme;

Hee to our good, t' his prayse, converts each crime.

That o're the greatest favorites of Kings

The greatest danger hangs on smallest strings.

10

In Greatnes thou art lost, as in a wood;

Treadinge the paths of flattery, falshood, blood.

The way to heaven neglected, thou did'st stray

As others now doe in thy Politick way.

But now thou'st found thy selfe; & wee have found

15

That sicknes taught thee Art to make men sound.

For had'st thou never fall'ne, th'hadst never writt:

Nor hadst thou cleer'd, but clouded us with witt.

But now thy falshood hath the truth so showne,

That a true World from a false World is knowne.

20

Source. Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 26, fol. 6v

Other known sources. Raleigh, *Poems* 188

B10

¹ *Dr John White*: probably the noted contemporary clergyman and preacher.

