

B21 Seventh Henryes Counsayle was of great renowne

Notes. This poem on James I's Privy Council is very difficult to date with any precision.

Seventh Henryes Counsayle was of great renowne
That joynd the white & red rose¹ in the crowne
And th'eight Henryes Counsayle weare no babies
That supprest popery & put downe the Abbeyes²
But King James his counsayle wins the prise
For they make wise men mad, & mad men wise.

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Source. V&A MS D25.F.39, fol. 82v

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¹ *joynd the white & red rose:* Henry VII's 1486 marriage to Elizabeth of York united the warring Houses of Lancaster (the red rose) and York (the white). The Tudor badge was a pink rose that blended red and white.

² *And th'eight Henryes...put downe the Abbeyes:* allusion to Henry VIII's break with the Church of Rome and his enforced dissolution of the monasteries during the 1530s.