

C1 Downe came grave auntient Sir John Crooke

Notes. The chosen version of “The Parliament Fart”, in Bodleian MS Malone 23, is one of the longest and most careful copies in circulation. On the whole it lacks the transcription errors frequently found in other copies; the names of members, with one or two possible exceptions, are given correctly; and there is an effort to provide the poem with some regularity (e.g. collating couplets attributed to the same member). The framing verses designate the poem’s value as an artful piece of wit, and hence the product of a sophisticated and urbane political culture. Given its status within parliamentary and legal circles, the notes concentrate on identifying members of parliament to whom the poem refers, and situating them within this context. Moreover, given the way in which the poem accrued substance and meaning into the 1620s, the notes regularly identify dates of death for men mentioned who died in these years. The notes also contain references to important variants.

“The Censure of the Parliament Fart”

Never was bestowed such art

Upon the tuning of a Fart.

Downe came grave auntient Sir John Crooke¹

And redd his message in his booke.

Fearie well, Quoth Sir William Morris,² Soe:

But Henry Ludlowes³ Tayle cry’d Noe.

Up starts one fuller⁴ of devotion

Then Eloquence; and said a very ill motion

Not soe neither quoth Sir Henry Jenkin⁵

The Motion was good; but for the stincking

Well quoth Sir Henry Poole⁶ it was a bold tricke

To Fart in the nose of the bodie pollitique

Indeed I must confesse quoth Sir Edward Grevill⁷

The matter of it selfe was somewhat uncivill

Thanke God quoth Sir Edward Hungerford⁸

That this Fart proved not a Turdd

Quoth Sir Jerome the lesse⁹ there was noe such abuse

Ever offer’d in Poland, or Spruce¹⁰

5

10

15

Quoth Sir Jerome in folio,¹¹ I swear by the Masse
This Fart was enough to have brooke all my Glasse 20
Indeed quoth Sir John Trevor¹² it gave a fowle knocke
As it lanced forth from his stincking Docke.¹³
I (quoth another) it once soe chanced
That a great Man farted as hee danced.¹⁴
Well then, quoth Sir William Lower¹⁵ 25
This fart is noe Ordinance fitt for the Tower.
Quoth Sir Richard Houghton¹⁶ noe Justice of Quorum¹⁷
But would take it in snuffe¹⁸ to have a fart lett before him.
If it would beare an action quoth Sir Thomas Holcrofte¹⁹
I would make of this fart a bolt, or a shafte. 30
Quoth Sir Walter Cope²⁰ 'twas a fart rarely lett
I would 'twere sweet enough for my Cabinet.
Such a Fart was never seene
Quoth the Learned Councell of the Queene.²¹
Noe (quoth Mr Pecke²² I have a President²³ in store 35
That his Father farted the Session before
Nay then quoth Noy²⁴ 'twas lawfully done
For this fart was entail'd²⁵ from father to sonne
Quoth Mr Recorder²⁶ a word for the cittie
To cutt of the aldermens right²⁷ weere great pittie. 40
Well quoth Kitt Brookes²⁸ wee give you a reason
Though he has right by discent he had not livery & seizin²⁹
Ha ha quoth Mr Evans³⁰ I smell a fee
I'ts a private motion heere's something for mee³¹ 45
Well saith Mr Moore³² letts this motion repeale
Whats good for the private is oft ill for comonweale³³
A good yeare on this fart, quoth gentle Sir Harry³⁴
He has caus'd such an Earthquake that my colepitts miscarry³⁵
'Tis hard to recall a fart when its out 50

Quoth with a loude shoote³⁶
 Yes quoth Lawrence Hyde³⁷ that wee may come by it
 Weele make a Proviso tyme it, and tye it.
 Quoth Harry the hardie³⁸ looke well to each clause
 As well Englands liberties as lawes 55
 Nowe then, so? the knightly Doctor³⁹ protestes
 This fart shalbe brought into the court of requests⁴⁰
 Nay rather saith Sir Edwyn⁴¹ I'le make a digression
 And fart him a Project⁴² shall last him a Session
 Quoth Sir William Wade⁴³ you may doe as you please 60
 For it hath broken allreadie out of little ease,⁴⁴
 Then swore Sir John Hollis⁴⁵ by the Masse
 Such a fart would not I lett passe
 Nor willingly make such a vacuitie⁴⁶
 Without some reward or hope of gratuitie⁴⁷ 65
 For from the belly to the britch to make such a transition
 Is a thriftles example of a frugall position.
 Then start upp a fatt one call'd Sir Thomas Shurley⁴⁸
 Saying how durst hee crack soe being noe Burley⁴⁹
 Quoth Sir John Fortescue⁵⁰ this fart was lett fall 70
 Not without great presumption doeing it withall⁵¹
 Quoth Sir John Sheffield⁵² in my opinion
 'Tweere better leave this fart and fall to the union⁵³
 Nay quoth Sir Hugh Beeston⁵⁴ and swore by the Masse
 Its rather the braying of some Puritain Asse 75
 Tushe quoth Ned Hobbie⁵⁵ whatso'ere it bee
 From Rome or Geneva 'tis all one to mee.
 Swooks quoth Sir John Lee⁵⁶ is your arse in dottage⁵⁷
 Could you not have kept this breath to have cool'd your pottage
 Why (quoth Sir Roger Owen)⁵⁸ if books be noe lyers 80
 I knewe one fart devided amongst a dozen Fryeres⁵⁹

Phillip Gawdie⁶⁰ strooke th'old stubble of his face
 And said the fart was well penn'd, so squat downe in his place.
 The modest Sir John Hollis⁶¹ said, on his word
 It was a shoe creek'd on a board. 85
 Not soe quoth Sir John Acklam⁶² that cannot be
 The place underneath is matted you see.
 Before God quoth Mr Brooke⁶³ to tell you noe lye
 This fart by our Law is of the Post-nati⁶⁴
 Grave Senate (quoth Duncombe)⁶⁵ upon my salvation 90
 This fart wanteth greatly some due reformation.
 Quoth the cuntrie courtier⁶⁶ upon my conscience
 'Twould be well mended with a little frankinsence
 Quoth Sir Thomas Challenor⁶⁷ I'le demonstrate this fart
 To be the voyce of his belly, noe thought of his hart. 95
 Quoth Sir Hugh Beeston⁶⁸ it was a dissembling speach
 Our mouth hath priviledge⁶⁹ but not our bretch.
 Upstart Ned Wymark the Pasquill of Powles⁷⁰
 And said it were fitter for the chappell of the Roolles⁷¹
 Then wisely spake Sir Anthony Cope⁷² 100
 Pray God it be not a Bull from the Pope.⁷³
 Not soe saith his brother,⁷⁴ words are but wynd
 Yet noe man likes of this motion behynd
 I said Oxenbridge⁷⁵ there is great suspition
 That this fart savoreth of popish superstition 105
 Nay quoth Mr Goad⁷⁶ and also some other
 It should by its Libertie be a reformed brother⁷⁷
 Then up start Sir John Young,⁷⁸ & swore by Gods nayles
 Was never such a fart lett on the borders of Wales
 Quoth Sir Roger Aston⁷⁹ howe shall I tell it. 110
 A fart hearesay and not see it nor smell it
 Againe quoth Sir Roger it would well mend the matter

If this fart weere well shav'd and washt with rose water⁸⁰
 Quoth Sir Thomas Knevet⁸¹ I feare there may lurke
 Under this Vault some more powder worke⁸² 115
 No quoth Sir John Parker⁸³ I sweare by my Rapier
 It was a Bombard⁸⁴ stopt with vild coppie paper
 Then said Mr Moore in his wonted order⁸⁵
 I rise but to speake of the howses disorder.
 And methinks that motion with noe reason stands 120
 A man should be charg'd with thats not in his hands
 In his hands quoth Price⁸⁶ noe the fault was in his britch
 Some Taylor should have given the hose another stich
 As noe talebearer darrs carry to the king⁸⁷
 Yes quoth Sir Roger Aston⁸⁸ without any paine 125
 My Memorie will serve to report the word againe
 Quoth Sir Lewis his brother⁸⁹ if it come of ambassage
 The maister of Ceremonies must give it passage⁹⁰
 I quoth Sir Robert Drury⁹¹ that had bene your part
 If it had bene a Forraine fart. 130
 Well quoth a frend⁹² ere this be transacted
 I feare wee must have this fart enacted
 And wee shall have therefore (soe you doe not abhorr it
 A fart from Scotland recipocall for it.
 A very good jeast by this light 135
 Quoth little Mr James of the Isle of Wight⁹³
 Quoth Sir Robert Johnson⁹⁴ if you will not laugh
 Ile measure this fart with my Jacobs staffe,⁹⁵
 And though it be hard, Ile bend myne intentions
 To survay it out equall into severall demensions 140
 Noe that must not be said Sir John Bennett⁹⁶
 Wee must have a select committee to penn it,
 Nay quoth Sir Richard Lovelace⁹⁷ to end the difference

It weere fitt with the lords to have a conference⁹⁸
 Why said Doctor Crompton⁹⁹ no man can draw 145
 This fart within the compasse of the civill lawe¹⁰⁰
 Noe said Doctor Paddy¹⁰¹ yett darr I assure him
 Though it be Præter modestiam its not Præter naturam¹⁰²
 Harke harke quoth Sir John Towneshend¹⁰³ this fart was of might
 To deny his owne master to be dubbed knight. 150
 For had it ambition, or orationis pars
 Your Sonne could have told you Quid est Ars¹⁰⁴
 Then So Quoth Sir Richard Gargrave¹⁰⁵ by, and by
 This mans ars speakes better then I.
 'Tweere noe great grevance quoth Mr Hare¹⁰⁶ 155
 The Surveyor heerein had his share¹⁰⁷
 Be patient gent quoth Sir Francis Bacon¹⁰⁸
 Ther's none of us all but may be thus overtaken
 Sylence quoth Bond¹⁰⁹ thoug words be but wynde
 Yet I much mislike of this motion behynd 160
 For quoth hee it stincks the more you stirr it
 Naturam Expellas surca licet usque recurrit¹¹⁰
 Then gan sage Mounson¹¹¹ silence to breake
 And said this fart would make an Image speake
 Then quoth Sir Dannett¹¹² this youth is too bold 165
 The priviledge of farting longs to us that are old
 Then said Mr Tolderbury¹¹³ I like not this passage
 A fart interlocutory in the midd'st of a message
 With all your Eloquence quoth Sir Richard Martin¹¹⁴
 You cannot find out this figure of farting 170
 Nor what part of speach save an interjection
 This fart canne be in gramatique perfection
 Up ryseth the speaker that noble Ephestion¹¹⁵
 And said Gents I'le putt it to the question

The question once made, the yea's did loose 175
 For the Major part went cleere with the nose
 Sir Robert Cotton well redd in old stories¹¹⁶
 Conferring his notes with good Mr Pories¹¹⁷
 Can witnes well that these are not fables
 And yet it was hard to putt the Fart in his tables.¹¹⁸ 180
 Quoth Sir Thomas Lake,¹¹⁹ if this house be not able
 To censure this fart I'le have it to the councell table.¹²⁰
 Quoth Sir George Moore¹²¹ I thincke it be fitt
 That wee this fart to the Serjant Committ.
 Not soe quoth the Serjant¹²² lowe on his knees 185
 Farts will breake prison but never pay fees¹²³
 Why? yet quoth the clerke¹²⁴ it is most true
 That for a private fart a fee is my due
 This scent growes hott quoth Mr Dyett¹²⁵
 Lett each man take his share, and be quiett 190
 Looke (quoth Sir William)¹²⁶ it had bene noe matter
 If this fart weere butter'd & putt in a platter¹²⁷
 That these that had not their judgments well spent
 Might have of the taste as well as the scent
 Then Richard Buckley¹²⁸ that angerie ladd 195
 Rose swearing (Goggs wounds) & satt downe halfe madd.
 Quoth Sir John Perrot¹²⁹ it greives me at the hart
 A private Man shold sweare for a publique fart
 All of them concluded it was not well
 To store upp this fart soe odious in smell 200
 And merry Mr Hoskins¹³⁰ swore 'twas but a stale¹³¹
 To putt the plaine Serjant out of his written tale.
 Fie, fye, I thinke you never did see
 Such a thinge as this quoth Sir John Lee.¹³²
 With many more whome heere I omitt 205

In censuring this fart who busied their witt
Come come quoth the King libelling is not safe
Bury you the fart, I'le make the Epitaph.¹³³

Source. Bodleian MS Malone 23, pp. 2-10

Other known sources. *Musarum Deliciae* 65; *Le Prince d'Amour* 93; Bodleian MS Ashmole 36-37, fol. 131r; Bodleian MS CCC. 328, fol. 94v; Bodleian MS Douce f.5, fol. 28r; Bodleian MS North b.24, fol. 28r; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 26, fol. 7r; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 117, fol. 196v; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 160, fol. 157v; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 172, fol. 8r; Bodleian MS Sancroft 53, p. 53; Bodleian MS Tanner 306, fol. 254r; BL Add. MS 4149, fol. 213r; BL Add. MS 10309, fol. 123r; BL Add. MS 15227, fol. 17v; BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 16r; BL Add. MS 30982, fol. 33r; BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 20r; BL Add. MS 44963, fol. 19v; BL Add. MS 58215, fol. 190v; BL MS Egerton 2230, fol. 25r; BL MS Egerton 2725, fol. 45v; BL MS Harley 4931, fol. 10r; BL MS Harley 5191, fol. 17r; BL MS Sloane 1394, fol. 172r; BL MS Sloane 1489, fol. 25r; BL MS Sloane 1792, fol. 104v; BL MS Sloane 2023, fol. 59r; BL MS Stowe 354, fol. 43r; BL MS Stowe 962, fol. 66v; HRO, Malmesbury Papers, 9M73/G3(b); TCD MS G.2.21, p. 409; Beinecke MS Osborn b.197, p. 99; Folger MS J.a.2, fol. 81r; Folger MS V.a.160, p. 79; Folger MS V.a.275, p. 101; Folger MS V.a.322, p. 226; Folger MS V.a.399, fol. 248v; Huntington MS HM 198, 1.3; Rosenbach MS 239/22, fol. 42v; Rosenbach MS 1083/15, p. 109; Rosenbach MS 1083/16, p. 9

C1

¹ *Sir John Croke*: Croke sat in the 1584, 1597 and 1601 Parliaments. He was the King's Serjeant in the 1604 Parliament, and thus brought messages and bills from the Lords to the Commons. He died in 1620.

² *Sir William Morris*: Maurice, or Morris, sat in the 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. James I referred to him as his godfather, since Maurice hailed James "King of Great Britain" on his accession, in the belief that this fulfilled a Welsh prophecy. He was the most ardent and vocal apologist for the Union of the Kingdoms in the Commons, and the House frequently censured his speeches due to their length or departure from business. In the 1610 Parliament, his two-hour speech on Union was subject to interruption and whistling, and was eventually stopped by the Speaker. He died in 1622.

³ *Henry Ludlowes*: Ludlow, a member of the Inner Temple, sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. Ludlow represented Wiltshire with James Kirton, John Hoskyns' friend from the Middle Temple.

⁴ *one fuller*: Nicholas Fuller, a member of Gray's Inn, sat in the 1593, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was a Puritan lawyer keen to secure ecclesiastical and moral reform, and willing to challenge the royal prerogative in relation to purveyance, the Union, and impositions. Toby Matthews, in a letter to John Donne describing the first Jacobean Parliament, said: "The vild [i.e. wild] Speakers are, Hoskyns, Fuller,

with an &caetera of an hundred men” (Bald 145). Following his zealous opposition to the Crown in the 1606/07 sessions, he was censured over a legal decision by the Lord Chancellor, Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, as part of a campaign against those who too zealously studied the royal prerogative in the Commons (Cuddy 132-33). He died in 1620.

⁵ *Sir Henry Jenkin*: Jenkin, a member of Lincoln’s Inn and a Justice of the Peace in Yorkshire, was elected to parliament in 1604. On 14 April 1604, during the purveyance debates, he cited the Magna Carta, defended freedom of election, and was called to order by the Speaker; on 20 Feb 1607 he followed a speech by Sir William Maurice with a prayer “that he might speak nothing impertinently and that the House would hear him with patience and attention”.

⁶ *Sir Henry Poole*: Poole, a member of Lincoln’s Inn, sat in the 1597, 1604, 1610, 1621, 1624 and 1626 Parliaments. He established a reputation as a parliamentary wit in James’s first Parliament; his brother-in-law was Sir Henry Neville, Earl of Abergavenny, who contributed a panegyric verse to *Coryats Crudities*. In November 1606, he spoke against the ruling on the *post nati*, alongside Richard Martin.

⁷ *Sir Edward Grevill*: Greville sat in the 1593 and 1604 Parliaments.

⁸ *Sir Edward Hungerford*: Hungerford sat in the 1614, 1621, 1624, 1625, 1628 and 1640 Parliaments. A Sir John Hungerford, a kinsman of Sir Henry Poole, sat in the 1604 Parliament. (One source attributes the couplet to “Sir Tho: Hungerford”, and it is possible that “Tho:” may be a corruption of “John” (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 21r).)

⁹ *Sir Jerome the lesse*: Sir Jerome Bowes sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. Bowes was temporarily banished from court in 1577 for slandering Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. He was appointed English ambassador to Russia in 1583, and died in 1616.

¹⁰ *Spruce*: Prussia (derived from “Pruce”).

¹¹ *Sir Jerome in folio*: Sir Jerome Horsey sat in the 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604, 1614 and 1621 Parliaments, and was appointed High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1610. He went to Moscow as clerk of the Russia Company in 1573, and engaged in trade and diplomatic work until 1587. He was granted a licence in 1592 to make drinking glasses in England and Ireland for twelve years. Since this and the preceding couplet are always cited together, “the lesse” and “in folio” function as a means of distinguishing the two Jeromes, although the contemporary significance of these phrases is now lost.

¹² *Sir John Trevor*: Trevor sat in the 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604, 1614, 1621 and 1625 Parliaments.

¹³ *As it lanced...Docke*: aligns the contemporary colloquial meaning of “dock” as “arse” with a pointed naval metaphor. On 25 February 1606, Bowyer recorded that on the first reading of a bill “manie cried (away with it) then MR. TREVOR of the Inner Temple, being a follower of the Lord Admirall [Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham], spake in favor of the bill...but the howse without

farder question threw out the bill, Fearing least it would breade a new office which they though [i.e. ‘through’] some greate man ayemed at ” (53).

¹⁴ *a great Man...danced*: allusion to Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who famously farted in front of Elizabeth I.

¹⁵ *Sir William Lower*: Lower sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. In 1614 he sent pursuivants after Sir Henry Goodyer, an act which may explain the couplet attributed to Lower in other copies: “Then all in anger sayd Sir Will: Lower / Wee may by our privilidge Comitt to the Tower” (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 21r).

¹⁶ *Sir Richard Houghton*: Houghton sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments.

¹⁷ *Justice of Quorum*: a Justice of the Peace whose presence was necessary to constitute a bench.

¹⁸ *take it in snuffe*: take offence.

¹⁹ *Sir Thomas Holcrofte*: Holcrofte sat in the 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1620.

²⁰ *Sir Walter Cope*: Cope, a noted antiquary, sat in the 1589, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was appointed secretary to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, in 1609, and Master of the Wards in 1613. He died in 1615.

²¹ *Learned Councill of the Queene*: Sir Robert Hitcham, who attended Gray’s Inn, was appointed Queen Anne’s Attorney-General in 1603, and sat in the 1597, 1604, 1614, 1624, 1625 and 1626 Parliaments.

²² *Mr Pecke*: Edward Peake sat in the 1576, 1584, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in July 1607, before the fourth session of this parliament.

²³ *President*: i.e. “precedent”. After members of the House of Lords were outraged by a message from the Commons claiming that some of its members were barons, Richard Martin reported on 5 March 1607 that Peake had a precedent in the description of representatives of the Cinque Ports.

²⁴ *Noy*: there were three Noyes in Jacobean Parliaments: William Noye sat in the 1604, 1621, 1624, 1626 and 1628 Parliaments; John Noyes sat in the 1604 Parliament; and Peter Noyes sat in the 1614 Parliament. The most likely candidate, however, given the legal tenor of the couplet, was William Noy: a member of Lincoln’s Inn and a highly regarded lawyer. On 14 March 1606, William Noy argued against a higher subsidy to the King, implying that high taxation was the cause of civil war and brought the state into disrepute at home and abroad (Bowyer 80).

²⁵ *entail’d*: pun on “tail”; to entail is to settle land or an estate on a designated series of possessors, hence from father to son. A joke of this type was made at the time, since Bowyer puts it in his diary (see

above, section Introduction).

²⁶ *Mr Recorder*: Sir Henry Mountague, Recorder of the City of London, sat in the 1593, 1597, 1603, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments, representing London in the last two of these.

²⁷ *To cutt...right*: i.e. to deny the powerful City of London representation and a voice in parliament.

²⁸ *Kitt Brookes*: Christopher Brooke, poet and member of Lincoln's Inn, sat in the 1604, 1610, 1614, 1621, 1624 and 1628 Parliaments. He was active in opposition to the Union and impositions, and was identified by Francis Bacon as one of the popular or "opposite party" (*Works* 4.365). Variants on this couplet include: "Wee may be note so severe quoth Christopher Brooke / That it inter orata in the end of the Clarke booke" (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 17r); "Nay quoth Kitt Brooke, I tooke it in ill part, / And ere I have done Ile abridge the fart" (BL Add. MS 58215, fol. 189r).

²⁹ *livery & seizin*: livery of seisin refers to the delivery of property into the corporal possession of a person. Since a fart is intangible this cannot be done.

³⁰ *Mr Evans*: Ralph Ewens, a member of Gray's Inn, sat in the 1597 and 1601 parliaments, and was Clerk of the Commons in the 1604 Parliament. He died in 1611.

³¹ *I smell...for mee*: fees were paid to the Speaker, Serjeant and possibly also the Clerk, to put private bills before the House.

³² *Mr Moore*: Sir Francis Moore, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1589, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He died in 1621.

³³ *Whats good...comonweale*: Moore was known for his opposition to monopolies. In 1606, he denounced a patent for blue starch as a monopoly; and in 1614, in a speech concerning the glass patent, he "declared that it was typical for monopolists to pretend that their patent was for the public good even though they were primarily concerned with private gain".

³⁴ *Sir Harry*: Sir Henry Goodyer, a member of the Middle Temple and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber from 1605, sat in the 1604 Parliament. He was a close friend and correspondent of John Donne and the other "wits" credited with the composition of the "Parliaments Fart".

³⁵ *He has caus'd...miscarry*: Goodyer held the monopoly on coal.

³⁶ *Quoth...shoote*: the manuscript leaves a gap here, and of the other versions that include this couplet there is no agreement whose name should appear. Contenders include: "Sir Thomas Holcraft" [i.e. Holcrofte, mentioned earlier in the poem] (Bodleian MS Ashmole 36-37), "Sir John Frogmorton" (BL MS Stowe 962) [i.e. John Throckmorton, who sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments], and "Mr May" (BL MS Harley 5191) [i.e. Humphrey May, who sat in the 1604, 1614, 1621, 1625, 1624, 1626 and 1628 Parliaments]. A further couplet is attributed to May in other copies: "then spake Mr May this

eloquent speech / would this accident had bin substance in his breech” (Rosenbach MS 1083/15, p. 57).

³⁷ *Lawrence Hyde*: Hyde, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1597 and 1604 Parliaments. He was a kinsman of Sir Edwin Sandys, was identified by Bacon as one of the “popular” party affiliated with the Earl of Southampton (*Works* 4.365), and vigorously defended parliamentary privileges, including freedom of speech. Couplets on Hyde in other versions include: “O wofull tymes, quoth Lawrence Hyde / yf once our freedome of speach be denyed” (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 16v); “nay quoth Laurence Hyde I like not that fashion / for Monopolies wear forbidden by proclamation” (Rosenbach MS 1083/15, p. 56). (In March 1621 James I cancelled by proclamation the patents on concealed lands, inns, and gold and silver thread (*Stuart Royal Proclamations* 1.503-5).)

³⁸ *Harry the hardie*: possibly Sir Henry Neville, who sat in the 1604 and 1614 Parliaments, and whose red hair and beard resembled those of Henry VIII. Neville was considered to be one of the leaders of the Commons, and at the end of the 1610 sessions was seen by one contemporary to have “ranged himself with those Patriots that were accounted of a contrary faction to the courtiers”. He died in 1615.

³⁹ *the knightly Doctor*: Sir Daniel Dun, Master of Requests, sat in the 1598, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments, representing Oxford University in the last two of these. He died in 1617.

⁴⁰ *court of requests*: court for the recovery of small debts.

⁴¹ *Sir Edwyn*: Sir Edwin Sandys, member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1589, 1593, 1604, 1614, 1621, 1624, 1625 and 1626 Parliaments. He was active in disputing the prerogative powers of the Crown in relation to the *post nati* and impositions, and in defending parliamentary privileges. Following the dissolution of the 1614 Parliament, he had his papers on impositions called in and burnt in Whitehall, was examined by the Privy Council, and was held in custody for a month.

⁴² *Project*: “a practical scheme for exploiting material things” (Thirsk 1). Projects were controversial at this period because they often involved the granting of monopolies or patents.

⁴³ *Sir William Wade*: Wade, a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1584, 1589, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. Lieutenant of the Tower between 1605 and 1613, he fell into disfavour and lost his post in part because of his failure to guard properly Arabella Stuart, who escaped from the Tower in 1611, and in part (according to a popular conspiracy theory) because he was unwilling to abet the murderers of Sir Thomas Overbury, who was murdered in 1613 (see Sections F and H).

⁴⁴ *little ease*: punning on the name given to the dungeon at the Tower of London.

⁴⁵ *Sir John Hollis*: Holles, a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. Though he increasingly sought patronage at court, and was made Lord Houghton in 1616 and first Earl of Clare in 1624, in the early Jacobean Parliaments Holles was a vocal critic of the Scottish bedchamber, an opponent of the Union, and a supporter of punitive restrictions on office-holding by Scots.

⁴⁶ *vacuitie*: absolute emptiness of space; vacuum.

⁴⁷ *Nor willingly...gratuitie*: Holles was well-known for his frugality, and was petitioning potential patrons in this period.

⁴⁸ *Sir Thomas Shurley*: two Sir Thomas Shirleys sat in James's Parliaments. Sir Thomas Shirley the elder (1542-1612) sat in the 1572, 1584, 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He raised his own army to follow Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, to the Low Countries, and was made Treasurer-at-War to the English army in 1587, which resulted in massive personal debt, as a result either of his abuse of the office or use of his own funds. He died in great debt in 1612. His son, Sir Thomas Shirley (c.1564-1632), sat in the 1584, 1593, 1601, 1614 and 1621 Parliaments. He was one of the famous Shirley brothers, who engaged in privateering in the Levant until his capture by the Turks in 1603. The placing of the couplet after the "frugall" Sir John Holles suggests the "thrifles" Shirley senior.

⁴⁹ *Burley*: probably intended as a punning reference to the Elizabethan statesman, William Cecil, Lord Burghley.

⁵⁰ *Sir John Fortescue*: Fortescue sat in the 1559, 1572, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He was a cousin of Queen Elizabeth, and a close friend of Lord Burghley, Sir Francis Bacon, Sir Walter Raleigh and Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex. He died in December 1607, after the third session of the 1604 Parliament.

⁵¹ *Not without...withall*: this line may ironically refer to Fortescue's presumption during elections to the 1604 Parliament. Fortescue lost the initial election to Sir Francis Goodwin; however, he convinced the Privy Council to void Goodwin's election, and was elected himself at the second election. In turn, the Commons responded by declaring Goodwin elected, and rejecting Fortescue. Both men eventually sat in this Parliament.

⁵² *Sir John Sheffield*: Sheffield sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. An inactive member of James's first Parliament, Sheffield accompanied Charles Howard, Lord Admiral Nottingham on his embassy to Spain in 1605, and travelled in France 1607-1610. He is not recorded making any speeches or serving on any committees relating to the Union. He died in 1614. A variant replaces Sheffield with a more likely candidate, Sir John Herbert (BL MS Stowe 354, fol. 43v). Herbert, a member of Gray's Inn, sat in the 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He was one of two Privy Councillors in the Commons in James's first Parliament and, somewhat ineffectively, put the Crown's case for the Union in this Parliament.

⁵³ *fall to the union*: i.e. turn (our) attention to the matter of the Union.

⁵⁴ *Sir Hugh Beeston*: there were two Hugh Beestons in this Parliament, though Sir Hugh (c.1547-1627) is the most likely referent. He was a member of Lincoln's Inn, and sat in the 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. In 1604 he was ordered to prepare for the Hampton Court conference on

religion, in 1606 he attended a conference on ecclesiastical grievances, and in 1610 he was among those appointed to consider a bill imposing the new oath of allegiance. His wife was prosecuted for recusancy later in 1610, and in the 1624 Parliament he was said to be “suspect in religion since ‘his daughter and heir apparent is a recusant’”.

⁵⁵ *Ned Hobbie*: Sir Edward Hoby sat in the 1580, 1585, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was the author of *A Letter to Mr. T. H.* (1609), which attacked Catholic women on the basis that women should not have religious opinions. Questier argues that this work marks a shift from the “godly” views he expressed in the 1604 Parliament to an anti-Calvinist perspective (“Crypto-Catholicism” 60). He died in 1617.

⁵⁶ *Sir John Lee*: Sir John Leigh sat in the 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1612.

⁵⁷ *dottage*: i.e. dotage.

⁵⁸ *Sir Roger Owen*: Owen, a member of Lincoln’s Inn, sat in the 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He died in 1617. In variants, another couplet refers to Owen: “Within the Compasse of the earthe 21000 myle aboute / quothe Sir Roger Owen such a Farte was never lett owte” (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 20r; see also BL Add. MS 58215, fol. 188v).

⁵⁹ *if books...Fryeres*: the reference is to Chaucer’s “Summoner’s Tale”; the division of the fart, the scatological centrepiece of the tale, is part of an extended satire on the sophistry and hypocrisy of friars.

⁶⁰ *Phillip Gawdie*: Gawdie sat in the 1589, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He died in 1617.

⁶¹ *Sir John Hollis*: Holles (the poem’s second reference to him).

⁶² *Sir John Acklam*: Acland sat in the 1586 Parliament, and in 1607 he replaced Sir Thomas Ridgeway when the latter was appointed Treasurer in Ireland. He died in 1620.

⁶³ *Mr Brooke*: there were a number of Brookes sitting in this Parliament, and this one appears to be distinguished from “Kit Brooke”, even though the jest about the *post nati* is in keeping with Christopher Brooke’s stance on this issue. The other possibilities are Giles Brooke, Thomas Brooke and William Brocke. The scribe, uncertainly, writes “Cooke” above the line, as an alternate reading. Although Sir Edward Coke did not sit in James’s first Parliament, this identification might allude to his status as one of the leading Jacobean judges. Coke sat in the 1589, 1593, 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1628 Parliaments.

⁶⁴ *Post-nati*: reference to debates on the mutual naturalization of Scots and English born since James’s accession to the English throne (the *post nati*).

⁶⁵ *Duncombe*: Edward Duncombe sat in the 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. A different couplet on Duncombe in a variant alludes to “talebearers” reporting speeches to the King: “You did so, quoth

Duncombe, but with an ill intent / you left but the sense precedent & the sense subsequent” (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 16v).

⁶⁶ *cuntrie courtier*: one copy identifies the “country courtier” as Sir Robert Wingfield, while another has “Sir R.W.” in the margin (BL Add. MS 23299; Rosenbach MS 1083/15). Wingfield, a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1584, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments (the latter until his death in August 1609). Reputed a “grave person, and an ancient Parliament man”, he was very active in James’s first Parliament, and put forward a bill “for the establishment of true religion”.

⁶⁷ *Sir Thomas Challenor*: Challenor sat in the 1586 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1615.

⁶⁸ *Sir Hugh Beeston*: the poem’s second reference to Beeston.

⁶⁹ *mouth hath priviledge*: allusion to debates over the parliamentary privilege of freedom of speech.

⁷⁰ *Ned Wymark...Powles*: Edward Wymark sat in the 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. A well-known Paul’s walker, money-lender and great wit, he compiled a register of concealed tenures, and St. Paul’s became (in the words of a contemporary writer) “his exchange to put out his money for 40 years together”. “Pasquill” refers to his apparent activity writing pasquils: witty, generally libellous verses.

⁷¹ *chappell of the Roolles*: Rolls House, Chancery Lane, was the official residence of the Master of the Rolls, Sir Edward Phelips.

⁷² *Sir Anthony Cope*: Cope, a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1571, 1572, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He acquired a reputation as one of the “puritan Parliament men”, and during James’s first Parliament he sat on committees to consider bills for ecclesiastical government and for the restoration of deprived ministers, and prepared a petition on ecclesiastical grievances. He died in 1614.

⁷³ *Bull from the Pope*: i.e. a papal bull (decree).

⁷⁴ *his brother*: the poem’s second reference to Sir Walter Cope. These sentiments are usually attributed to John Bond (who is mentioned again below).

⁷⁵ *Oxenbridge*: two Sir Robert Oxenbridges sat in the Commons. Sir Robert Oxenbridge the elder (c.1586-1616), a member of the Inner Temple, sat in the 1604 Parliament only; his son (1595-1638), a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1621, 1624, 1625 and 1626 Parliaments. The elder Oxenbridge is the more likely candidate here, particularly as his son was inactive in all four parliaments in which he sat. While the elder Oxenbridge’s brother became a Jesuit, Oxenbridge himself was active on committees on reform of the ministry, and in February 1606, following the Gunpowder Plot, accused Sir William Maurice of attending mass (although, as a contemporary noted, “the House took no hold of that speech”). He died in 1616.

⁷⁶ *Mr Goad*: John Good, a member of Lincoln's Inn, sat in the 1604 Parliament. Good was a pro-Scottish Catholic who outwardly conformed, but whose autobiography set out his rejection of the Anglican Church. He made a speech on the bill "against Puritans" in 1604, and in 1610 he continued to speak against Puritan ministers and for leniency towards recusants.

⁷⁷ *reformed brother*: derogatory reference to a Puritan.

⁷⁸ *Sir John Young*: Yonge, who sat in the 1597 and 1604 Parliaments, was well-known for his profanities both within and without the Commons. He died around 1614. But the poem's suggested connection with Wales would be more appropriate if applied to Richard Younge, a member of Lincoln's Inn, who sat in the 1604, 1621 and 1624 Parliaments. The latter was well-known as a Welsh member of the Commons, and was on the committee for the Welsh government bill. A version of this couplet is also linked to "Mr. Jones" (e.g. "I am noe teller of tales / the like have I never heard in the marches of Wales" (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 20v)). There were at least three Joneses in early Stuart parliaments: John Jones, who sat in 1604; Richard Jones, who sat in 1628, 1640 and 1647; and Robert Jones, who sat in 1625 and 1628.

⁷⁹ *Sir Roger Aston*: Aston, a close friend of John Donne and Sir Henry Goodyer, sat in the 1604 Parliament. Bodleian MS Malone 23 appears to be collating two couplets on Aston that appear separately in other copies. He died in 1612.

⁸⁰ *well shav'd...rose water*: a marginal note in one manuscript describes Aston as "The Kinges Barber" (Rosenbach MS 1083/15, fol. 55v)

⁸¹ *Sir Thomas Knevett*: Knyvett sat in the 1572, 1584, 1586, 1589, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1622.

⁸² *I feare...worke*: as Justice of the Peace for Westminster, Knyvett discovered the explosives under the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

⁸³ *Sir John Parker*: Parker sat in the 1589, 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1617.

⁸⁴ *Bombard*: an early cannon; also playing on bombast (overblown, windy speech).

⁸⁵ *Mr Moore...order*: Sir George More, a member of the Inner Temple, sat in the 1584, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604, 1614, 1621, 1624, 1625 and 1626 Parliaments. He was one of the most senior members of the House, and, famously, John Donne's father-in-law. More habitually rose in the Commons "about Eleven of the Clock...[to] make Repetition of all that had been spoken that Day" (Bald 145).

⁸⁶ *Price*: this could be a reference to any one of several early Stuart parliamentarians named Price. Charles Price sat in the 1621, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1628, 1640 and 1642 Parliaments; James Price I sat in the 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604, 1614 and 1621 Parliaments; James Price II sat in the 1624, 1625 and 1626

Parliaments; William Price sat in the 1614, 1621, 1624, 1625 and 1626 Parliaments.

⁸⁷ *As noe...king*: the first line of a couplet often attributed to Samuel Lewkenor (“I am gladd, quoth Sam: Lewkner, wee have found a thing / Which no talebearer can cary to the King” (Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 26, fol. 7v)), the second line of which seems to have been missed by this copyist. Lewkenor sat in the 1584 and 1604 Parliaments. Behind the couplet is a speech Lewkenor delivered on 6 May 1607, which set out a number of concerns about the way the House’s freedom of speech had been compromised by “private suggestions or reports” delivered to the King. He argued that men who had “expressly been blamed and reprehended by his Majesty for their speeches in the House” should be given an opportunity to clear themselves, and that in future the House should be able “with all liberty and freedom and without fear, [to] deliver their opinions in the matter in hand”.

⁸⁸ *Sir Roger Aston*: the poem’s second reference to Aston. A variant has Aston jest that he has already carried the House’s message (i.e. the fart) to the King: “naye quoth Sir Roger, I went from this place, / and reported it worde for worde to his grace” (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 16v).

⁸⁹ *Sir Lewis his brother*: Samuel’s brother, Sir Lewis Lewkenor, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1597 and 1604 Parliaments. He was a contributor to *Coryats Crudities*. Several of his speeches in James’s first Parliament provoked hostile reactions.

⁹⁰ *if it come...passage*: Lewis Lewkenor was the Master of Ceremonies. The lines perhaps also allude to the hostile reaction to Lewkenor’s interposed speech of 28 June 1604, in which he claimed “that he was induced by some late conference with a foreign ambassador to put the House in mind of some answer to be made to the King’s late letter, touching subsidy”. Regarded as ardently pro-Spanish from early in James’s reign, Lewkenor was briefly imprisoned in 1625 for presuming to order, without authorization, a ship for the departure of the Spanish ambassador.

⁹¹ *Sir Robert Drury*: Drury sat in the 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. An experienced soldier in the 1590s, he was appointed to an embassy to Spain in 1605. He was also a patron, and later landlord, of John Donne, who travelled with the Druries in Europe 1611-12. He died in 1615.

⁹² *a frend*: in one manuscript the “frend” is identified as Sir Edward Hoby (BL Add. MS 23299, fol. 15r).

⁹³ *Mr James...Wight*: Richard James represented Newport, Isle of Wight, in the 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1613. When Sir William Maurice on 9 Dec 1606 pressed the House to read a bill for imperial title, Richard James launched into an anti-Scots tirade. A different couplet is attributed to James in a variant: “naye quoth mister James no saieing will serve, / But savinge your reverence yf well observe” (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 15r).

⁹⁴ *Sir Robert Johnson*: Johnson sat in the 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was appointed Surveyor in the Exchequer under Elizabeth, and prepared a treatise on reform of Crown lands. He was active in matters relating to land reform in James’s first Parliament, partly in order to increase Crown

revenue, drawing on his expertise as a surveyor. He died in 1622.

⁹⁵ *Jacobs staffe*: surveyor's tool used for measuring distances and heights.

⁹⁶ *Sir John Bennett*: Bennet, a member of Gray's Inn, sat in the 1597, 1601, 1604, 1614 and 1621 Parliaments. An ecclesiastical and civil lawyer, he was appointed to twenty-nine committees in the 1606-07 session and thirty-six in 1610. He was impeached in 1621 on corruption charges for accepting bribes in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

⁹⁷ *Sir Richard Lovelace*: Lovelace, a member of Gray's Inn, sat in the 1601, 1604, 1614 and 1621 Parliaments.

⁹⁸ *to end...conference*: on 22 January 1606, Lovelace put the motion that a conference be called with the Lords before addressing Thomas Wentworth's proposal for securing "an able, sufficient and resident ministry"; however, the House instead nominated a committee.

⁹⁹ *Doctor Crompton*: Thomas Crompton sat in the 1589, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in February 1609, before the fourth session of the 1604 Parliament.

¹⁰⁰ *no man...civill lawe*: alludes to a conflict between the civil and common law, which precipitated the attack in the Commons, led by Richard Martin, on *The Interpreter* (1607), by John Cowell, Professor of Civil Law at Cambridge. *The Interpreter* was perceived to undermine the authority of the common law and Parliament, asserting instead the superiority of the royal prerogative. One copy continues: "for well I wott being a Cyvillian doctor / this farte came into Court withoute a Proctor" (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 20v).

¹⁰¹ *Doctor Paddy*: William Paddy, the King's physician and President of the College of Physicians, sat in the 1604 Parliament only.

¹⁰² *Præter modestiam...naturam*: beyond propriety not beyond nature.

¹⁰³ *Sir John Towneshend*: Towneshend sat in the 1604 Parliament only.

¹⁰⁴ *orationis pars...Quid est Ars*: playing on the titles of the popular school Latin grammar books, Aelius Donatus's *De partibus orationis ars minor* and *De partibus orationis ars maior*. Literally: "orationis pars" (speaking part); "Quid est ars" (what is art).

¹⁰⁵ *Sir Richard Gargrave*: Gargrave sat in 1597, and took his seat in the 1604 Parliament on 7 April 1606.

¹⁰⁶ *Mr Hare*: John Hare sat in the 1572, 1584, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments.

¹⁰⁷ *The Surveyor...share*: the copyist has probably misread "Purveyor" for "Surveyor" (so the line

could allude to complaints about the avarice of purveyors). A more plausible variant has: “yt wer noe grievance quoth Mr Hare / If this knave Purveyor of this Fart had a share” (Bodleian MS Tanner 306, p. 256). Hare was an effective leader of the Commons in putting the legal case against purveyance in James’s first Parliament (Croft, “Parliament” 13-14, 23-26). He died in 1613.

¹⁰⁸ *Sir Francis Bacon*: Bacon, a member of Gray’s Inn, sat in the 1581, 1584, 1586, 1589, 1593, 1597, 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. Bacon’s activities as Attorney-General and a tract he published on duelling, *The charge of Sir Francis Bacon, knight, his Majesties Attorney Generall, touching Duells, upon information in the Star-chamber against Priest and Wright. With the Decree of the Star-Chamber in the same cause* (1614), inform a couplet in a variant: “Quoth fyne fraunces Bacon, yf it were not in this place / this farte maight bee proved a starr Chamber case ” (BL MS Stowe 354, fol. 43v). Another couplet seems to allude to his fall from grace following his impeachment in 1621: “why what doe you meane so much to take on / he was fedd with swynes flesh quoth sir Frauncis Bacon” (Rosenbach MS 1083/15, fol. 56v).

¹⁰⁹ *Bond*: John Bond sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. A physician and classical scholar, Bond (d. 1612) published commentaries on Horace (1606) and left notes on Persius which were published posthumously in 1614.

¹¹⁰ *Naturam...recurrat*: allusion to Horace, *Epistles* 1.10: “Naturam expellas furca tamen usque recurret” (“Drive Nature out with a Pitchfork. She’ll be back again.”).

¹¹¹ *Mounson*: Sir Thomas Monson sat in the 1597, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was accused of complicity in the Overbury poisoning in 1615, and remained in the Tower until 1617; however, “sage” Monson did not break his silence over his part in the Overbury murder, and he was eventually released without standing trial (Bellany, *Politics* 77).

¹¹² *Sir Dannett*: Thomas Damett (or Dannett) sat in the 1584, 1586, 1593, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. He died in 1618.

¹¹³ *Mr Tolderbury*: Christopher Tolderrey sat in the 1604 Parliament.

¹¹⁴ *Sir Richard Martin*: Martin, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1601 and 1604 Parliaments, and was permitted by the House to make a speech on behalf of the Virginia Company, as the Company’s counsel, in the 1614 Parliament. He was one of the leading wits in a tavern company that met at the Mitre and Mermaid taverns, and was highly regarded for his oratorical skills. After he delivered the oration to James I on his 1603 entrance into London, he was awarded the unofficial title of “London’s Oracle”. He died in 1618.

¹¹⁵ *the speaker...Ephestion*: the Speaker of the Commons, Sir Edward Phelips, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1584, 1586, 1593, 1597, 1601 and 1604 Parliaments. Phelips was the key spokesman for Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, in James’s first Parliament, which led in 1610 to protests over a conflict of interests. He may have acted as a patron of the wits, given his sponsorship of Thomas

Coryate, and close ties with Hoskyns, Brooke, Martin, and William Hakewill, who were frequent guests at his dining table (Coryate, *Traveller* 8-9). He secured a seat for Donne in the 1614 Parliament. The title given to Phelips, “noble Ephestian”, equates the Speaker with the classical orator. He died soon after the dissolution of the 1614 Parliament, having fallen into deep disgrace with the King for the part his son and “one of his cheife consorts and minions”, John Hoskyns, played in the “Addled” parliament of 1614 (Chamberlain, *Letters* 1.540, 556).

¹¹⁶ *Sir Robert...stories*: Cotton, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1604, 1624, 1626 and 1628 Parliaments. He was a well-known antiquary, a founding member of the Society of Antiquaries, and an advisor to Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton and James I on parliamentary matters. He was a friend of Jonson, Holland, Martin, Brooke, Donne, Goodyer, Jones and Richard James, among others.

¹¹⁷ *Mr Pories*: John Pory sat in the 1604 Parliament, taking his seat in 1605. He was a close friend of fellow antiquaries Cotton and Sir Walter Cope.

¹¹⁸ *putt the Fart...tables*: i.e. document the fart in his table book. Many copies of “The Parliament Fart” end either with these couplets, or add the Speaker putting the fart to the vote.

¹¹⁹ *Sir Thomas Lake*: Lake sat in the 1593, 1601, 1604, 1614 and 1626 Parliaments. He was a member of the Elizabethan Society of Antiquaries, and was appointed Latin Secretary to James in 1603, and Keeper of the Records at Whitehall in 1604. After being appointed Secretary of State in 1616, he spectacularly fell from power (see Section J).

¹²⁰ *if this house...table*: this reference could allude to events in 1607 or 1614. When Christopher Piggot, the member for Buckinghamshire, made an intemperate speech against the Scots in February 1607, the Commons initially failed to punish him, and he was only sent to the Tower after James I intervened. Some versions of the poem include the following couplet “quoth Sir Edw: Hobbie alleadgd with the spiggot,/Sir if you fart at the union remember Kitt Piggott” (Stowe 962, fol. 67r). Lake was made a Privy Councillor in 1614, and this couplet would have gained additional resonance with the Commons’ failure to censure members, including John Hoskyns, for inflammatory speeches made during the 1614 Parliament; hence the need for the Privy Council to intervene, as it did following the 1614 dissolution (see Section G).

¹²¹ *Sir George Moore*: the poem’s second reference to More.

¹²² *the Serjant*: Roger Wood, appointed Serjeant-in-Ordinary in 1588, and Serjeant-at-Arms to the Speaker in 1590.

¹²³ *Farts...fees*: possibly a reference to the fact that prisoners paid fees to their keepers. A related couplet refers to the gratuities that were sometimes paid to the Serjeant and servants by individuals or the city guilds in order to further business in Commons, see C1i note 31.

¹²⁴ *the clerke*: the poem’s second reference to Ralph Ewens, Clerk of the Commons.

¹²⁵ *Mr Dyett*: Anthony Dyott, a member of the Inner Temple, sat in the 1601, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He made a “long, learned” speech on the illegality of purveyance in 1606, spoke in support of the Union, and opposed impositions in this Parliament. He died in 1622.

¹²⁶ *Sir William*: there are a number of candidates for “Sir William” in the 1604 Parliament, including those referenced elsewhere in other copies: Sir William Maurice, Sir William Lower, Sir William Waad, Sir William Paddy, and “Sir William Strowde of Sommersetshire” (BL Add. MS 23229, fol. 16v).

¹²⁷ *If this fart...platter*: probably refers to some office held by “Sir William”, possibly within one of the royal households; however, this has not been identified.

¹²⁸ *Richard Buckley*: Sir Richard Bullheley, a member of Lincoln’s Inn, sat in the 1563, 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He died in 1621. “Angerie” might be a mistranscription of “Anglesey”; a variant has, “Then sayed Sir Rich: Buckley that Anglice Ladd / rose upp in a fury and rose upp halfe madd” (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 21v).

¹²⁹ *Sir John Perrot*: James Perrot, a member of the Middle Temple and friend of John Hoskyns, sat in the 1597, 1604, 1614, 1621, 1624 and 1626 Parliaments. In 1614 he was summoned before the Privy Council after a violent attack on impositions which blamed James’s mismanagement of royal finances, and in 1621 he was outspoken in his attacks on popery and monopolists.

¹³⁰ *Mr Hoskins*: John Hoskyns, a member of the Middle Temple, sat in the 1604 and 1614 Parliaments. He was one of the lawyers in the Commons who studied the prerogative, alongside his friends Brooke, Hakewill, James Whitelocke, Martin, Sir Robert Phelips and others; and he was a vocal critic of James’s Scottish bedchamber in 1610 and 1614 (which led to his imprisonment following the dissolution of the latter Parliament). He was a leading wit in the tavern companies that met at the Mitre and Mermaid, and his poetry circulated widely in manuscript (see Section G). Other couplets on Hoskyns include: “Why quoth Sir John Hoskynes what needes this adoe / If youle bury the Farte I make an Epitaph therto” (BL Add. MS 34218, fol. 21r); “Gentlemen quoth Hoskins, to libe it is not safe, / Let the Fart bee buried, Ile make the Epitaph” (BL Add. MS 58215, fol. 189r); “Well quoth Mr Hoskins, I dare pawne my nose / The gentm: mente it noe farther than his hose / And yet not within that statute de dovis / Because a farte is nulli in bovis” (BL MS Sloane 1489, fol. 25r).

¹³¹ *stale*: lure or trap.

¹³² *Sir John Lee*: the poem’s second reference to Lee.

¹³³ *Come...Epitaph*: the closing couplet perhaps alludes to James’s poem attacking those who wrote libels (“O stay your teares yow who complaine”); however, other versions attribute the warning to Hoskyns. Endings of the poem are many and varied: some versions put the fart to the vote; another brings the poem back to the issue of the Union which Ludlow’s fart interrupted: “When all had well laughed they Concluded by art / That Parliaments of late wear subject to a fart / Yet they better likte the

tricke of the Chollicke / Then the former blast of the Powder Catholique / And thus the parliament, in
mens opinion / Hath turnde to a fart the mater of union!” (Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 117, fol. 194r; cf.
BL MS Sloane 1394, fol. 173v-74r).
