

D5 Two R:R:rs twoe Crookebacks of late ruled Englands helme

Notes. This is one of two libels that compare the hump-backed Cecil to the hump-backed tyrant Richard III. For a discussion of the Ricardian motif in these libels, see Croft (*“Reputation”* 55-56).

Two R:R:rs twoe Crookebacks of late ruled Englands helme

The one spilte the Royall bloode,¹ the other Spoylde the Realme.

Source. BL MS Egerton 2230, fol. 69v

Other known sources. PRO SP 14/69/67:I (transcribed in Chamberlain 1.356 n. 34); *Newsletters from the Archpresbyterate of George Birkhead* 192

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¹ *spilte the Royall bloode*: allusion to Richard III’s alleged murder of the two princes in the Tower.
