

D8 The divell now hath fetcht the Ape

Notes. Parts of this poem are excerpted and discussed by Croft (“Reputation” 55, 60) and McRae (Literature 59-61).

The divell now hath fetcht the Ape
Of crooked manners, crooked shape.¹
Great were his infirmities,
But greater his enormities
Oppression, lechery, blood, & pride
He liv’d in; & like Herod² di’d.

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Source. Bodleian MS Tanner 299, fol. 11r

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¹ *Crooked shape:* Cecil’s crooked back.

² *Herod:* according to the ancient historian Josephus, Herod the Great died in great agony, suffering grotesque symptoms similar to those that allegedly afflicted Cecil.