

I18 Two kinsmen wrastlinge, who shold have the fall

Notes. This poem uses an extended wrestling metaphor to depict Raleigh's betrayal by his kinsman Lewis Stukeley, who gave evidence to the authorities after escorting Raleigh to London in 1618.

"On Sir Walter Rawleighe his death"

Two kinsmen¹ wrastlinge, who shold have the fall

the state stood by, threw up the foote ball

Both mett, tooke hold, one coller thinkes to slipp²

the other slilye gott him on the hipp

Ne're foyld him, but ere he came to ground

5

to save him selfe & foyle his freind meanes found

Whil'st one cleane strength to fetch him o'er did lacke

the other footes him & layes him on his backe

O for a righteous Judge, peoples good voice

and after age sentence; t'is better choice

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To dye with glorye, then to live with shame

Rawleigh hath lost his head, and Stukeley his fame

Source. Bodleian MS Don. d.58, fol. 6r

Other known sources. Raleigh, *Poems* 194

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¹ *Two kinsmen:* Raleigh and his kinsman and purported betrayer Lewis Stukeley.

² *coller thinkes to slipp:* possible allusion to Stukeley's thwarting of Raleigh's alleged attempt to escape to France.
