

L1 Above in the skies shall Gemini rise

Notes. John Chamberlain, our only source for this verse, included a transcription in his 8 February 1617 newsletter to Sir Dudley Carleton. Having noted Buckingham's recent appointment as a Privy Councillor, and the talk that, "His brother Christofer is come to be of the bed-chamber", Chamberlain commented that, "I cannot but commend that Lords goode disposition in dooing goode to his kindred and frends: though some riming companions do not forbear to taxe him for it, as one by way of a prognostication sayes" (2.52).

Above in the skies shall Gemini¹ rise,
And Twins the court shall pester,
George² shall call up his brother Jacke³
And Jacke his brother Kester.⁴

Source. Chamberlain 2.52

L1

¹ *Gemini*: the constellation of the twins, Castor and Pollux.

² *George*: George Villiers, Earl of Buckingham, royal favourite.

³ *Jacke*: John Villiers, Buckingham's older brother, later elevated as Viscount Purbeck, was appointed a Groom of the Bedchamber and Master of the Robes to Prince Charles in 1616.

⁴ *Kester*: presumably an abbreviated version of Christopher Villiers's name. Christopher—often referred to as Kit—Villiers was Buckingham's younger brother, and was later created Earl of Anglesey. His appointment to a Bedchamber office, reported in Chamberlain's letter, was perhaps the occasion for the libel.
