

### Mi3 Pervertinge of the lawes makes justice blind

*Notes.* There is only one known version of this poem on the monopolist Sir Giles Mompesson in this form; however, as listed below, three known sources preserve the final stanza as a discrete piece. In their final lines, there is some commonality between this poem and “The tottering state of transitory things”.

#### “On Sir Giles Mumpesson”

Pervertinge of the lawes makes justice blind  
Converted lawes makes her, her eyes to find  
Whilst now God present is, & president  
Of our thrice noble, happy Parliament.

The Cobweb law<sup>1</sup> that did our small theeves spoyle  
Hath catcht our great ones in his hanginge toyle  
The earth growes happy & the heaven smiles  
Theres noe respect of Persons. Mum Sir Giles.<sup>2</sup>

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The proverbe of lame Giles<sup>3</sup> is false I say  
Had Giles beene lame hee had not runne away  
Sir Giles thought fitt noe longer time to 'bide  
For feare hee by Saint Giles his Church should ride<sup>4</sup>

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**Source.** Folger MS V.a.162, fol. 53r

**Known sources of the shorter version.** Bodleian MS Don. d.58, fol. 36v; Folger MS V.a.103, fol. 73r; Folger MS V.a.262, p. 132

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<sup>1</sup> *Cobweb law*: the prosecution of Mompesson depended on the revival of a medieval procedure of impeachment.

<sup>2</sup> *Mum Sir Giles*: i.e. silent Sir Giles (in the context of the whole line, a strained play on his name).

<sup>3</sup> *proverbe of lame Giles*: probably “lame Giles has played the man” (Tilley G115).

<sup>4</sup> *For feare...ride*: the scribe adds here an explanatory marginal note: “To Tyburne”.