

## Mii The Fall of Bacon

### Miii The measled Boare is frankt I tell noe fable

*Notes.* This neat epigram connects the impeachment of Bacon with a number of other instances of corruption at court. The ironic closing couplet suggests that the movement towards reform will be short-lived.

The measled Boare<sup>1</sup> is frankt<sup>2</sup> I tell noe fable  
The Headstrong horse<sup>3</sup> is shut up in the stable  
The Kings whilome Attorney now condemned<sup>4</sup>  
And A prime Pen of state his place suspended<sup>5</sup>  
Bennet<sup>6</sup> is sicke for feare, the Chancellor craddocke<sup>7</sup>  
And Lambe<sup>8</sup> Stinkes worse than Mackerell or Haddocke  
Nor place but Inocence now keepes me safe  
    The Almanacke foretells this storme must cleere  
    Or offices will beare no price this yeare.

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**Source.** Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 7r

### Mii1

- <sup>1</sup> *measled Boare:* i.e. Bacon (Bacon's crest, worn on his servants' liveries, was of a boar).
- <sup>2</sup> *frankt:* shut up in a frank (an enclosure for feeding swine).
- <sup>3</sup> *Headstrong horse:* unclear; possibly another reference to Bacon, but more likely a coded reference to another man.
- <sup>4</sup> *The Kings...condemned:* Sir Henry Yelverton, Attorney-General from 1617, fell from power in 1620, when he was found guilty in a Star Chamber trial of having passed a charter to the city of London containing unauthorized provisions.
- <sup>5</sup> *A prime...suspended:* possibly a reference to Sir Robert Naunton, Secretary of State, who was reprimanded and threatened with dismissal (though not suspended) early in 1621, for opening negotiations with the French, without the consent of James, for a possible marriage between Charles and

Henrietta Maria.

<sup>6</sup> *Bennet*: Sir John Bennet, Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, impeached for a range of corrupt practices in the 1621 Parliament. His case was seen by many as a signal instance of corruption within the judiciary.

<sup>7</sup> *Chancellor craddocke*: probably John Craddocke, Chancellor of Durham from 1619.

<sup>8</sup> *Lambe*: probably John Lambe, an ecclesiastical lawyer who used the full rigour of the law to compel Church conformity in Northamptonshire. In 1621 the mayor and corporation of Northamptonshire presented a petition to parliament complaining about him; however, the king remained supportive, and knighted him in July of the same year.

