

Mii2 Stand fast thou shaking quaking keeper

Notes. This poem on Bacon takes a stanza from “Oyes” and extends it in a similar style, expanding in particular on the pun on Bacon’s name.

“On Fran. Ld. Verulam Keeper of greate seale”

Stand fast thou shaking quaking Keeper

A tent¹ thou must endure,

For feare in time thy wounds grow deeper,

And so become past cure.

Into thy past life see thou looke,

5

For if thy faults grow common,

Thou soone wilt find a nimble Cooke²

Slice rathers³ from thy gammon.

Patient hee is like Job, I wis

And poore, you need not doubt him,

10

Butt most of all like Job in this

Hee hath such scabbs about him.⁴

Meazly Bacon is quite forsaken

And none thats heere care for it,

The Parliament with one consent

15

I oft have heard it spoke

Hath made a law to singe it with straw

And hange it up in smoake.

Source. BL Add. MS 22118, fol. 42v

Other known sources. *Trevelyan Papers* 3.163; BL Add. MS 61481, fol. 99r; TCD MS 806, fol. 577r; Beinecke MS Osborn b.197, p. 182

¹ *tent*: surgical probe.

² *Cooke*: i.e. Sir Edward Coke, a leading figure in the Commons and long-time rival of Bacon.

³ *rathers*: i.e. “rashers”.

⁴ *like Job...about him*: “So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown” (Job 2.7). The line probably refers to Bacon’s struggles with gout and other illnesses, which he used to delay proceedings and again to defer his imprisonment; however, it is also possible that Bacon’s “scabbs” are metaphorical (i.e. scurvy fellows, rascals). Bacon compared himself to Job more favourably in his speech to the House of Lords on 22 April 1621, stating: “I hope I may say and justify with Job in these words: *I have not hid my sin as did Adam, nor concealed my faults in my bosom*” (*Works* 14.243; cf. Job 31.33).
