

Miii2 When Charles, hath got the Spanish Gearle

Notes. Versions of this detailed poem on politics in the early 1620s differ considerably in length, and it seems likely that extra verses were added by different hands in the course of the poem's circulation. In one source it is dated "March 1621" (Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50).

When Charles, hath got the Spanish Gearle¹

The Puritans will scold & bralle

But Digbie² then shall be made an Earle

And Spanish gold shall pay for all

When Suffolke³ getts the king to frend

& makes his wife⁴ to cease to brall

he then may finish Audeley end⁵

& the old accompt shall pay for all

5

When Sussex⁶ cured of the pox⁷ yow see

& his whores relived from the hospitall

his countesse⁸ then will honest be

& the Surgion shalbe payed for all

10

When Mansfeild taken hath Argires⁹

then paules¹⁰ shall have a steeple tall

the Lord mayor then the churchyard cleares

& the Turkish gold¹¹ shall pay for all

15

When Sackfeild¹² Spinola¹³ shall take

& Wentworth¹⁴ brings Bucquoy¹⁵ to thrall

then¹⁶ King will then be frends with Lake¹⁷

& the Lady Rosse¹⁸ shall pay for all

20

When Cranfeild¹⁹ is Lord Tresorer made

then soope & Candles sure will fall²⁰

& all his Soveraignes debts be payd
& thats the day shall pay for all

When the Banquetting howse²¹ is finishd quite 25
then Jones Sir Inigo²² we will call
& Poetts Ben²³ brave maskes shall write
& a Parlament shall pay for all

When oxford²⁴ doth from Weesele²⁵ come
Then Joy to poore decayed Turnball²⁶ 30
for up goes every wenches bom
& the ould baude shall paye for all

Sir Gyles²⁷ is much displeasd with king
that he a parlament doth call
but my ast and oastis²⁸ they doe sing 35
the day is com shall paye for all

The Scotchmen are but begger yet
although theire begging be not small
but when a parlament doth sitt
the subsidyes shall pay for all 40

When Buckingham had got his Kate²⁹
her father³⁰ seemed to fret his galle
but when the preest concluded her fate
he was contente to paye for all

When purbeck hath recovered his witt³¹ 45
& cooke³² amended his cases all
then hutton house³³ heele get
& the day will come shall paye for all

Greate Edward his is Nowe in print³⁴

& thinks to get the divell & all 50
The Spanish Gould come to our minte
then thats the day shall pay for all

When Kitt³⁵ doth leave his healthes to drinke
& take delight in beere but small
a shall be then a lord som thinke 55
& the London Lasse shall pay for all

When Yelverton³⁶ shalbe releassed
& Buckingham begine to fall
then will the commons be well pleased
& that hath long been wished of all 60

They say Sejanus³⁷ doth bestowe
what ever offices doe fall
but tis well knowne it is not so
for he is soundly payed for all

Theares none doth nowe so much as name 65
the Earle of Somerset³⁸ at all
but suerly he was much to blame
for he should once have hang'd³⁹ for all

When Doncaster⁴⁰ puts money to use
& Devonshier⁴¹ prove a prodigall 70
& cooke⁴² leaves of to playe the goose
then thats the day shall paye for all

O Chanclor⁴³ hat bine bribd with plate
to aunsver which they doe him call
Lord Egerton⁴⁴ he sent too late 75
for the daye is come shall paye for all

The day that most have wisht to see
is nowe at hand of Bacons fall
but maney men will loosers bee
For he can never pay them all⁴⁵

80

A countesse⁴⁶ doth her husband rebuke
& bids him goe & com at her call
but when her Sonne is created a Duke
the day will com shall pay for all

Source. Bodleian MS Ashmole 38, fol. 229r-v

Other known sources. Bodleian MS Ashmole 36-37, fol. 108r; Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 31v; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 160, fol. 179v; TCD MS 806, fol. 581v; Folger MS V.a.162, fol. 29v; Rosenbach MS 239/27, p. 66

Miii2

- ¹ *When Charles...Gearle*: i.e. when Prince Charles has married the Spanish Infanta (see Section N).
- ² *Digbie*: Sir John Digby, later Earl of Bristol, James's ambassador to Spain to negotiate the Spanish Match.
- ³ *Suffolke*: Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, who had been dismissed as Lord Treasurer in 1618 for corruption.
- ⁴ *his wife*: Catherine Howard, Countess of Suffolk.
- ⁵ *Audeley end*: Audley End, Suffolk's palatial house, construction of which was financed with his profits from office.
- ⁶ *Sussex*: Robert Radcliffe, 5th Earl of Sussex. This stanza implies the Earl had a notorious reputation for womanizing. On the death of his wife in December 1623, he was swiftly remarried to a woman Chamberlain reported as "his concubine" (2.533).
- ⁷ *pox*: syphilis.
- ⁸ *countesse*: Bridget, Countess of Sussex.

- ⁹ *Mansfeild taken hath Argires*: Sir Robert Mansell led an English fleet on an expedition against the Barbary pirates of Algiers, 1620-21.
- ¹⁰ *paules*: St. Paul's Cathedral, London. The Cathedral was in poor physical repair, and an appeal to raise funds had been launched in 1620.
- ¹¹ *Turkish gold*: presumably the wealth taken from the Muslim Barbary pirates based in Algiers.
- ¹² *Sackfield*: possibly Sir Edward Sackville, an officer in Sir Horace Vere's 1620 volunteer force to aid Frederick V, Elector Palatine.
- ¹³ *Spinola*: Ambrosio Spinola, Spanish general who commanded the conquest of the Palatinate in 1620-21.
- ¹⁴ *Wentworth*: Sir John Wentworth, an officer in the English volunteer force commanded by Sir Horace Vere to aid Frederick V, Elector Palatine.
- ¹⁵ *Bucquoy*: Charles Bonaventure de Longueval, Count of Bucquoy, commander of Imperial forces against the rebels in Bohemia.
- ¹⁶ *then*: probable scribal error; read "the"
- ¹⁷ *Lake*: Sir Thomas Lake, former Secretary of State, who fell from office in 1618-19 as a result of a scandal involving defamation, forgery and the suborning of witnesses (see Section J).
- ¹⁸ *Lady Rosse*: Anne Cecil, Lady Roos, daughter of Sir Thomas Lake and widow of William Cecil, Lord Roos. Lady Roos was imprisoned in 1619 as a result of the defamation, forgery and suborning charges that also brought down her father (see Section J).
- ¹⁹ *Cranfeild*: Sir Lionel Cranfield, who became Lord Treasurer late in 1621.
- ²⁰ *fall*: i.e. fall in price, presumably thanks to Cranfield's reforms of the monopolies on soap and candles.
- ²¹ *Banquetting howse*: the new Banqueting House in the palace of Whitehall, designed by Inigo Jones, and completed by March 1622.
- ²² *Jones Sir Inigo*: Inigo Jones, the designer of the Banqueting House at Whitehall. He was never knighted.
- ²³ *Poetts Ben*: Ben Jonson. ("Poetts" is a probable scribal error; read "Poet".)
- ²⁴ *oxford*: Henry de Vere, 19th Earl of Oxford, and a member of Sir Horace Vere's 1620 expeditionary

force to aid Frederick V, Elector Palatine.

²⁵ *Weesele*: Wesel, a town in the Rhineland, occupied by the Spanish since 1614. Vere's force marched through Wesel in 1620.

²⁶ *Turnball*: Turnbull Street in London, notorious for its whorehouses. On Oxford's whoremongering reputation, see "Some say Sir Edward Cecill can".

²⁷ *Sir Gyles*: Sir Giles Mompesson, monopolist.

²⁸ *ast and oastis*: host and hostess; i.e. the proprietors of the inns now freed from Mompesson's intrusive regulation.

²⁹ *Buckingham...Kate*: George Villiers, Earl of Buckingham, married Katherine (Kate) Manners, daughter of the Earl of Rutland, in May 1620.

³⁰ *her father*: Francis Manners, 6th Earl of Rutland, who initially opposed the match with Buckingham because of the amount of dowry demanded and because it would require his daughter to renounce her Catholicism.

³¹ *purbeck...witt*: Buckingham's elder brother, John Villiers, Viscount Purbeck was afflicted with bouts of insanity.

³² *cooke*: Sir Edward Coke. Coke had fought bitterly with his wife Elizabeth, Lady Hatton, to permit their daughter Frances to marry John Villiers. After an epic feud, Coke got his way and the couple was married late in 1617.

³³ *hutton house*: presumably Hatton House, one of Coke's wife's properties that would come to Purbeck as result of his marriage to Frances Coke.

³⁴ *Greate Edward...print*: unclear; possibly a reference to Sir Edward Coke's work on successive volumes of his case-law *Reports*.

³⁵ *Kitt*: Buckingham's younger brother, Sir Christopher Villiers.

³⁶ *Yelverton*: Sir Henry Yelverton, former Attorney-General. Yelverton had been dismissed from office in 1620. In April 1621, testifying to the House of Lords on patents and monopolies, Yelverton launched a blistering attack on Buckingham and his kindred. James ordered Yelverton imprisoned, a sentence that was confirmed by the House of Lords in May 1621.

³⁷ *Sejanus*: notorious favourite of the Roman Emperor Tiberius; here implying Buckingham.

³⁸ *Eearle of Somersett*: Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, Buckingham's predecessor as favourite, who

was brought down in the Overbury murder scandal of 1615-16 (see Section H).

³⁹ *hang'd*: Somerset was sentenced to die for his role in Overbury's murder; however, the sentence was never carried out.

⁴⁰ *Doncaster*: James Hay, Viscount Doncaster, a noted profligate.

⁴¹ *Devonshier*: William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire. Chamberlain reports that at the time of Cavendish's elevation a "rime" attacking Cavendish and other recently ennobled men, termed the new Earl of Devonshire "a Lombard or usurer", suggesting he had a reputation for miserliness (2.163).

⁴² *cooke*: Sir Edward Coke.

⁴³ *Chanclor*: Lord Chancellor, Sir Francis Bacon, impeached for bribery by the 1621 Parliament.

⁴⁴ *Lord Egerton*: Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, Bacon's predecessor as Lord Chancellor.

⁴⁵ *he can never...all*: Bacon's debts were notoriously huge, and his means of paying them notoriously limited.

⁴⁶ *A countesse*: the reference here is unclear, but the likeliest candidate—given that her son was in line to be created a duke—is Mary Villiers, Countess of Buckingham, mother of George Villiers the royal favourite. Her husband was Thomas, Lord Compton.
