

Nv12 Poor silly wight that carkes in the night

Notes. Some stanzas in this poem inspired by the prospect of a Spanish dowry correspond with some of those in “Our eagle is yett flowne, to a place unknowne”; however, the differences between the two poems are sufficient to include them as discrete texts. Given the similarities, however, it is possible that this poem may also have been set to the tune of “Whoop! Do me no harm good man”.

Poor silly wight¹ that carkes² in the night

and lookes like a man that were starving

For the drosse of this world which by fortune is hurld

more on fooles then on men well deserving.

Sett sorrow apart and cheere upp thy hart

or hast thee or hygh thee to shore

There shalt thou espie Spanish gold comming nigh

then thou shalt not want any more.

5

Our Eagle is flowne³ to a place yet unknowne

to seeke out the Phœnix of Spayne⁴

Feathred foule many moe, will after him goe

to attend and be of his train.⁵

10

And some doe report they will bringe to the Court

such a masse and abundance of treasure

That the men of the land did they thrise double stand

are not able the same for to measure.

15

The Grandies of Spayne will loade Charles waine⁶

with the richest of riches that be

And God knows what pearle will be given to this girle⁷

from the Ladyes of every degree

20

And others doe say that the Dutchmen⁸ must pay

a greate somm to make matters even
Soe we shall have gold more then London will holde
were the walls built as high as the heaven.

But I doe say and still shall I pray

25

god save us from the Spanish infection
The Divell, the Pope, the Masse, and the Rope,⁹
Together with Preistly correction

And graunt that shee prove as true as her love
as shee is of royall desert

30

And I thinke of her gold, to say I may be bold
we shall need little helpe of a Cart.

Source. Bodleian MS Rawl. D. 1048, fol. 50v

Other known sources. Folger MS V.a.339, fol. 255v; Rosenbach MS 1083/16, p. 248

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¹ *wight*: person.

² *carkes*: toils.

³ *Our Eagle is flowne*: Prince Charles (“Our eagle”) left for Spain in February 1623.

⁴ *Phænix of Spayne*: the Spanish Infanta Maria.

⁵ *Feathred foule...train*: other courtiers followed Charles to Madrid in the weeks after the Prince’s departure.

⁶ *waine*: wagon.

⁷ *this girle*: the Spanish Infanta Maria.

⁸ *Dutchmen*: the Dutch, who were at war with Spain, had a great interest in seeing the Spanish Match fail, or in at least countering its diplomatic effects.

⁹ *Rope*: probably the hangman's rope.

