

## Nv18 The fift of August, and the fift

*Notes.* A variant source gives a more accurate title for this song: “Upon Prince Charles his arrivall from Spaine. Octob. 5. 1623” (Beinecke MS Osborn b.197). The poem appears to be a song, but unfortunately no evidence of tune or performance survives.

“Of Prince Charles his voyage into Spayne”

The fift of August,<sup>1</sup> and the fift  
Of good November<sup>2</sup> made a shift  
To make us sing and drinke merrily, ly, ly, ly.

But shalbee treason to bee sober  
On the fift day of October:<sup>3</sup>  
And will you knowe the reason why? why, why, why.

5

The sonne of our most noble king  
wentt into Spayne to fetch a thing;<sup>4</sup>  
perhappes you heard of it before; before, before, etc  
But there was such a doe about her,  
That hee is come agayne without her,  
And I am very gladd therefore, therefore, therefore etc

10

With him is come unto our coast,  
A man as great as hee all most,  
A Duke<sup>5</sup> hee is, a Dutches<sup>6</sup> is his wife, his wife, his wife etc  
What needed hee so farre to come,  
Who had so many wives at home,<sup>7</sup>  
Doe what hee could, to last him all his lyfe? his lyfe, his lyfe etc

15

Your Puritans<sup>8</sup> who will not drinke,  
I warrant you, did wisely thinke,  
That our prudent King was very much to blame; to blame, to blame etc  
Bycause hee made so many blottes;

20

They knew not hee had after plottes,  
And went about to play an after game; game, game etc

Even as the head is wiser then 25

The body, So let other men,  
Give leave unto our king to bee wise; be wise, be wise, etc

And drinke a health unto the Prince

Who hath been absent ever since

Hee went away from hence in a disguise;<sup>9</sup> disguise etc. 30

Harke, I heare the belles ring;

O strange, How the gunnes sing,

It is not for a Mayor,<sup>10</sup> or such a toye; a toye, a toye etc

The melancholy drums do beate,

The bonfires all are in a sweate, 35

And melt away themselves for very joye, joy etc

The Lord Maior and his brothers,<sup>11</sup>

Though not so wise as others

But that it rain'd, had mett him all in order, order etc

Much joye in heart they did conceive, 40

But, for they cannot speake, they leave

Their minde in the mouth of their Recorder,<sup>12</sup> corder etc.

The citizens of London there

All pitifully undone were

And hung downe their heades; like men forlorne; forlorne, etc. 45

When now the Prince is come from Spaine,

Holde up their broken heades agayne

And every one exalts on high his horne;<sup>13</sup> his horne etc

I would his Majesty of Spaine were here a while to se

The jollyty of our English nation; nation etc 50

Then surely hee would never hope, That either hee or els the pope  
Could make here a Romish plantation,<sup>14</sup> etc.

Now fye upon I knowe whom  
Who turne for hopes in tyme to come,  
And say that wee are blindly ledd away; away etc. 55  
As if that they had better sight  
Who say the masse by candle light<sup>15</sup>  
When the sunne shines as cleare as day: day etc.

And therefore you, who serve the tyme,  
Lend both your eares unto my rime; 60  
And turne agayne, or els ere it bee long, long etc  
I hope to see you killed all,  
Like those that from a ladder fall,<sup>16</sup>  
And put into a lamentable song, song, song etc

God blesse our Prince, and if hee chance 65  
To goe once more by Spaine to France;  
His love unto his mistress for to show, show etc  
I hartily desire hee may,  
Even as he went, so come away:  
And have no worse luck then hee had now, now etc. 70

And if our royall King wilbee  
In one thing well advis'd by mee:  
Then let him give his loyall subjects leave, leave etc  
To put the day the Prince ariv'd,  
Into such bookes as are contriv'd 75  
By John a Stowe,<sup>17</sup> and Jeffery a Neave,<sup>18</sup> a Neave etc.

**Other known sources.** Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 160, fol. 180v; Beinecke MS Osborn b.197, p. 63

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<sup>1</sup> *fiſt of Auguſt*: 5 Auguſt was commemorated as the anniversary of King James’s deliverance from the Gowrie aſſaſſination plot in Scotland.

<sup>2</sup> *fiſt / Of good November*: 5 November was commemorated as the anniversary of the diſcovery of the 1605 Gunpowder Plot to blow up King James and the Houſes of Parliament.

<sup>3</sup> *fiſt day of October*: Prince Charles and Buckingham arrived in England from Spain on 5 October 1623.

<sup>4</sup> *thing*: i.e. the Spaniſh Infanta, Maria.

<sup>5</sup> *A Duke*: the Duke of Buckingham.

<sup>6</sup> *Dutches*: Katherine (Kate) Villiers, Ducheſs of Buckingham.

<sup>7</sup> *ſo many wives at home*: perhaps a (relatively friendly) dig at Buckingham’s reputation for womanizing.

<sup>8</sup> *Puritans*: mocking term for the godly, ſober, hotter ſort of Proteſtant. The poet is diſmiſſing criticism of James’s conduct of the Spaniſh Match negotiations in 1623 as the work of Puritans.

<sup>9</sup> *diſguiſe*: Charles and Buckingham left England diſguiſed in falſe beards and ſimple clothes as Jack and Tom Smith.

<sup>10</sup> *not for a Mayor*: the feſtivities for the return of Prince Charles—church bells, bonfires in the ſtreets, drums and cannon ſalutes—were part of the early modern Engliſh “vocabulary of celebration” (Cressy) and were thus ſimilar to thoſe uſed at the installation of Lord Mayors of London.

<sup>11</sup> *his brothers*: preſumably the London aldermen.

<sup>12</sup> *Recorder*: the Recorder of London.

<sup>13</sup> *exalts on high his horne*: celebrates his victory or deliverance. The phrase is biblical (ſee, e.g., 1 Samuel 2.10).

<sup>14</sup> *make here a Romiſh plantation*: i.e. re-eſtabliſh Catholicism in England.

<sup>15</sup> *ſay the maſſe by candle light*: reference to prieſts and Catholics who perform maſſ in ſecret at

night.

<sup>16</sup> *those that from a ladder fall*: those that are hanged (about whom many a “lamentable song” was printed).

<sup>17</sup> *John a Stowe*: John Stow (d.1605), chronicler and antiquary.

<sup>18</sup> *Jefferey a Neave*: Jeffere Neve (or Le Neve) was an almanac writer. His *A New almanack and prognostication* was published annually during the early Stuart period. Cogswell (*Blessed Revolution* 11) notes that 5 October did find its way into almanacs.

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