

## Nv2 From Englands happy & unequall state

*Notes. In the only known source, this poem on Prince Charles and Buckingham's controversial journey to Madrid in pursuit of the Spanish Match (February-October 1623) is attributed to John Harvy.*

“One the Princes goeing to Spayne”

From Englands happy & unequall<sup>1</sup> state

Our Charles is gone to trust to Sea & Fate:

Neptune<sup>2</sup> be proud since thow with him art freight

For Sea had never such a noble waight.

Let not thy Billowes rore, nor surges rise,

5

Nor a blacke cloud appeare within the Skyes:

Smooth thy rough face, & let the Sunnes bright beames

With a rich mantle cloth thy silver streames.

Let not a wrinkle in thy brow be seene

And be no more as thow to fore hast beene.

10

Shew all your pastimes, let your watry sport

Resemble to his eyes a Monarches Court.

Cause thy rich woombe send forth her plenteous store

That which hath longe beene hidden from the shore.

And in a minute from her bosome cast

15

Those priceles Gemms that circled with her wast

Send all unto his sight, be proud that yow

Can please his senses with your humble view.

For never did theare on the Ocean swim

A Vesell fraught with whats contaynd in him.

20

When Princely Charles shall safe arive in Spayne

And their 2 heartes made one,<sup>3</sup> which have bin twayne,

So long tyme joy above all joy will flow

And in no place shall bide a thought of woe.

What will Maria thinke when she shall see 25  
 A Prince for her sake of that dignitye  
 Cast of the robe of majesty & take  
 A shape so humble<sup>4</sup> for his mistress sake  
 Expose his body to laborious toyle  
 And with long steps measure a strangers soyle. 30  
 Forsake his Country, leave his friendes in doubt,  
 Of what in his long travayles may fall out.  
 How can they recompence his worthy love  
 Which by apparant signes he doth approve?  
 Barre him no longer from the heavenly blisses 35  
 But greet his comming with a 1000 kisses.  
 Then shall you pay the hyre he doth expect  
 Giving a period to more state neglect  
 And your affections shall heereafter bee  
 Left as Examples to posteritye. 40  
 And faythfull Buckingame thy love shalbe  
 Kept from decay unto Eternitye.  
 For truly waigh what thow hast ventur'd now  
 Will force thy foes even with a wrinkled browe,  
 Confes thee noble, & their envy lay, 45  
 Fast bound in earth, & nere behold more day.  
 What though thy Enemyes nere so much do curse  
 Thy happy fortunes? Thow art nere the worse:  
 But like the Syrian Wolves that barke all night,  
 Against the moones transplendent heavenly light,<sup>5</sup> 50  
 Count those that envy thy deserved state  
 Knowing thow standst 'bove envy or their hate.  
 For thinke you that your Sovereigne would rayse  
 Any to honor for the peoples prayse?  
 No, he did se that in thy inward part, 55

Was his true faith without dissembling art.  
And that a man so form'd by Natures skill,  
Had not within his breast a thought of ill.  
Love those that love thee: For the rest a strawe  
Guilt shunnes the light; Foxes the Lyons pawe.

60

**Source.** Bodleian MS Malone 19, pp. 35-37

Nv2

- <sup>1</sup> *unequall*: unequalled.
  - <sup>2</sup> *Neptune*: god of the sea.
  - <sup>3</sup> *And their 2 heartes made one*: i.e. the marriage of Prince Charles with the Spanish Infanta Maria.
  - <sup>4</sup> *Cast of the robe...humble*: alluding to Charles's adoption of a humble disguise as "Jack Smith".
  - <sup>5</sup> *like the Syrian...light*: while the specific significance of Syrian wolves is unclear, the image is of foolish and barbarous carping in the face of mysterious regal splendour.
-