

Nv5 Tell mee for gods sake Christs Church what you meane

Notes. This riposte to Richard Corbett's poem "I've read of Ilands flotinge and removed" was less well known than "False on his Deanery: false, nay more, I'le say", but it merits attention not only for its attack on Corbett's sycophancy towards the royal favourite, but also for its wittily "Catholic" perspective.

"An other by a Catholique gentleman"

Tell mee for Gods sake *Christchurch*¹ what you meane

to countenance such a mad, vayneglorious deane,

If's not enough you knowe him proud, deboyst²

a Parasite³ a Cicophant, a foyst⁴

Unlearned uncivill, unchast, unholye?

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but must both Rome and Spaine witnessse his folly?

what will they thinke of other mens devotion

when deanes dare thus profane to gett promotion

will they not thinke well of our Churches head⁵

when forth the bodie such ill humours spread?

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will they not blesse them selves for being devided

from our *Christchurch* if *Christchurch* be so guided?⁶

If *Christchurch* gave noe better pastor, sure

the flocke must needs bee mangey, lowsey, poore.

Well lett thy god the Duke⁷ rayse the for this worke

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and ere I'le be a protestant, Ile turne Turke.

Source. BL Add. MS 61481, fol. 64r

Other known sources. NCRO MS IL 4278

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¹ *Christchurch*: Corbett was Dean of Christ Church, Oxford.

² *deboyst*: debauched.

³ *Parasite*: common term for those (often courtiers) who feed upon the common weal for their private benefit.

⁴ *foyst*: cheat.

⁵ *our Churches head*: the monarch—here James I—was head of the Church of England.

⁶ *from our Christchurch...guided*: punning on the Church of England (“our *Christchurch*”) and Christ Church in Oxford.

⁷ *thy God the Duke*: George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, the royal favourite and Corbett’s patron.
