

Oi16 Come heare, Lady Muses, and help mee to sing

Notes. The refrain suggests that this song against Buckingham may have been set to the popular ballad tune “The Clean Contrary Way” (Simpson 109). Three fiddlers were tried and convicted of seditious libel after performing this song at Ware, Buckinghamshire, and at Staines, Middlesex, in the late spring and early summer of 1627.

“A Song”

Come heare, Lady Muses, and help mee to sing,

 Come love mee whereas I lay

Of a Duke that deserves to bee made a King

 The cleane contray way

 O the cleane contrary way.

5

Our Buckingham Duke is the man that I meane

 Come love mee &c

On his shoulders the weale¹ of the Kingdome doth leane

 The cleane contrary &c

 O the cleane contrary &c

10

O happiest Kingdome that ever was ken’d²

 Come love mee &c

And happie the King that hath such a Frend

 The cleane contrary &c

 O the cleane &c

15

Needes must I extoll his worth and his blood

 Come love me whereas I lay

And his sweet disposition soe milde and soe good

 The cleane contrary way

 O the cleane contrary way.

20

Those innocent smiles that establish his face

Come love mee &c

Who sees them not tokens of goodnes and grace

The cleane contrary &c

O the cleane &c

25

And what other Scholler could ever arise

Come love mee &c

From a Master³ that was soe sincere and wise

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

30

Who if hee could now from his Grave but ascend

Come love mee &c

Would surely the trueth of his service commend

The cleane contrary way

O the cleane &c

35

The King understands how hee honours his place

Come love mee &c

Which is to his Majestie noe little grace

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

40

And therefore the Government justly hath hee

Come love mee &c

Of horse for the land and shipps for the Sea⁴

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

45

What though our Fleet bee our Enemies debtor

Come love mee &c

Wee brav'd them once and wee'l brave them better

The cleane contrary way

O the cleane &c

50

And should they land heere they should be disjoynted

Come love mee &c

And finde both our horse and Men bravely appointed

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

55

Then let us sing all of this noble Dukes praise

Come love mee &c

And pray for the length of his life and his daies

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

60

And when that death shall close up his Eyes

Come love mee &c

God take him up into the skies

The cleane &c

O the cleane &c

65

Source. BL MS Sloane 826, fols. 164v-166v

Other known sources. Bodleian MS Add. C.302, fol. 18r; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 26, fol. 61r; BL MS Add. 58215, fol. 173v; Rosenbach MS 1083/16, p. 196

Oi16

¹ *the weale*: the good; the welfare.

² *ken'd*: seen.

³ *Master*: James I.

⁴ *Government...shipps for the Sea*: Buckingham was Master of the Horse and Lord Admiral.
