

Oii2 It makes mee to muse to heare of the Newes

Notes. The tone of this song's prediction that Buckingham would lead a Protestant conquest of Europe may very well be ironic; however, it seems almost certain that the poem dates from before Buckingham's actual departure for the Ile de Ré in late June 1627, a period in which the Duke and his artistic clients were busy fashioning the favourite anew as a military hero in the making.

"A Song"

It makes mee to muse to heare of the Newes

That Men doe report of the Duke,

Let us bee content with the money thats spent¹

Hee'l put all our Foes to rebuke.

Hee'l cool France and Spaine, and quiet the Maine,

The Dunkerks² passage hee'l stopp:

To stay all commotion hee'l plough up the Ocean,

God send him a good harvest cropp.

5

Nay at a word, like Edward the third,³

Hee'l make the proud French to tremble,

Like Henry the fift⁴ hee'l make them to shift

And runne with their limbes soe nimble.

10

Nay at his owne cost, hee, all that is lost

Will restore to the crowne againe,

Then Callis will hee take, with Normandie,

And all the rest of Aquitaine.⁵

15

Nay't may bee his chance but to conquer all France,

Where Henry the sixt was crowned:⁶

Then what other Man like our Buckingham

Shall through the world bee renowned.

20

Then hee casts his accounts to the Apinine Mounts,⁷
And the Alps for to take his way,
Where the Emperor for feare, when hee sees him there
Will deliver him Bohemia.⁸

Nay many Men hope hee'l subdue the Pope 25
And discover that Man of sinne,
The isles in the way, in the midland Sea⁹
For certaine hee will take in.

And then hee will meet with the West Indie Fleet,¹⁰
And of them hee will take fast hold, 30
And bring them away for England a pray,
And choke us with silver and gold.

Source. BL MS Sloane 826, fols. 166v-167v

Other known sources. Bodleian MS Malone 23, p. 104

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¹ *the money thats spent*: allusion to the great fiscal burdens placed on the English by the necessities of military mobilization.

² *The Dunkerks*: the Dunkirk pirates, a serious threat to English shipping in this period.

³ *Edward the third*: King Edward III (reigned 1327-1377) led the English in the first phases of the Hundred Years' War with France.

⁴ *Henry the fift*: Henry V defeated the French at Agincourt in 1415.

⁵ *Callis...Aquitaine*: territories in France once under the control of the kings of England.

⁶ *Henry the sixt was crowned*: King Henry VI, son of Henry V, was crowned King of France in Paris in 1431.

⁷ *Apinine Mounts*: the Apennine Mountains of Italy.

⁸ *the Emperor...Will deliver him Bohemia*: the Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II was King of Bohemia. In 1618-1620, Bohemian Protestant rebels had toppled Ferdinand and offered the throne to Frederick V, Elector Palatine, and brother-in-law of Charles I. Imperial forces drove Frederick from Bohemia late in 1620.

⁹ *midland Sea*: Mediterranean Sea.

¹⁰ *the West Indie Fleet*: the treasure ships bringing to Spain silver and gold mined in the Spanish American possessions.
