

Oii3 Great Buckinghame

Notes. The likeliest date for this poem is the period preceding Buckingham's departure for the Ile de Ré in late June 1627. Suspicions of Buckingham's cowardice were common during this period, and were intensified after the abject failure of the Ré expedition.

Great Buckinghame

hath spred a fame

that soone he will be gone

But what say some

that times not come

till sure the thirtie one¹

which beinge past

Hee'le then make hast

and make noe longer stay

if this be soe

hee'le never goe

and thus the most men say.

He hath a trick

that hele be sick

to find his Doctors sport

and they must say

he needs must stay

Soe cheates the vulger sort.

But soft Sir knave

we often have

had triall of that shift

we know the cause

Of your longe pause

Your whole Intent & drift.

you would not goe

5

10

15

20

25

the matters soe
 You would avoyd the warr
you thinke to have
your bodie safe
 in England as you are 30
I wonder here
the whores staye cleere
 the Dukes most mightie presse²
Because not one
but these alone 35
 to him can have accesse.
Tis said the kinge
the Duke will bringe
 to portsmouth³ if he may
and then I hope 40
the D:⁴ and pope
 will beare him quite away.

Source. Bodleian MS Eng. Poet. c.50, fol. 27r

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¹ *the thirtie one*: presumably a reference to the thirty-first day of the month in which this poem was written (possibly, therefore, May or March).

² *the Dukes most mightie presse*: the meaning of “presse” here is a little unclear. It might have a bawdy innuendo, but it might also refer to the pressing of men for the army to go to Ré.

³ *Tis said...to portsmouth*: Charles I visited the fleet at Portsmouth in early June 1627.

⁴ *the D*: the devil.
