

Oiii3 The warrlike King was troubled when hee spy'd

Notes. This response to Richard Corbett's "The wisest King did wonder when hee spy'd" achieved a circulation almost as wide as Corbett's poem. The poem offers a pro-Puritan and anti-episcopal response to Corbett's earlier conflation of Puritanism with social and political radicalism (see McRae, *Literature* 175-78).

"An Answer to the same Lyne for Lyne"

The warrlike King was troubl'd when hee spy'd
His darling Absolons aspiring pride.¹
His Majestie may more disdain to see
Some Preist that would bee King aswell as hee.
A sadd presage of danger to the land, 5
When Prælats strive to gett the upper hand,
Where Prince and Peare the Clergie must obey,
Where laymen may those Teachers teach the way,
When Prym and Prinn, even Jourdan² may define
What Prelat's hetrodox, and what divine. 10
Pelagian broode, elder then Amsterdam,
Garland your Bull, court your Armenian Ramm,³
The commons, if they can, will clense their throats,
And make them with Buchanan⁴ sing clearer notes,
And teach them how that Parliaments and Kings 15
Can crush their Pride, and clippe their Eagles wings,
It is this Paritie⁵ must sett all right,
Then shall the Gospell shine like Phœbus⁶ bright,
True Protestant Religion is the thing
Wee must reare up to honour Church and King. 20
Against the Papists wee should have the day,
If some blinde Bishops stood not in the way,
But they will finde a tricke to hold their Pride

Though Tonnage Poundage⁷ never bee deny'd.

Source. BL MS Sloane 826, fols. 153v-154r

Other known sources. Corbett, *Poems* 83; Corbett, "Richard Corbett's" 32; Bodleian MS Ashmole 36-37, fol. 75r; Bodleian MS Malone 23, p. 117; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 84, fol. 71r; BL Add. MS 29607, fol. 1r; BL Add. MS 35331, fol. 30v; BL Add. MS 61683, fol. 67r; BL MS Harley 6383, fol. 34v; BL MS Sloane 1479, fol. 47v

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¹ *The warrlike King...aspiring pride*: allusion to the story of Absalom's revolt against his father, King David (2 Samuel 13-20).

² *Prym and Prinn, even Jourdan*: John Pym, William Prynne and Ignatius Jordan. Pym was a leading anti-Arminian MP; Jordan a notoriously Puritan MP; and Prynne a Puritan polemicist and pamphleteer.

³ *Pelagian broode...Armenian Ramm*: the exact meaning of this knotty couplet is unclear. Pearl and Pearl suggest that "broode" "may be the Dutch broeder, brother", and argue that "the phrase may be an elaborate pun to mean that the Dutch 'brother' who follows the doctrines of Pelagius (the fifth-century British monk who denied original sin and predestination: in Calvinist eyes a precursor of Arminius) accepted a heresy which was even older than Amsterdam, whereas an elder he served even the papal bull and the Arminian Ramist" (39 n.34).

⁴ *Buchanan*: George Buchanan, sixteenth-century Scots Calvinist resistance theorist.

⁵ *Paritie*: equality in Church government. Walter Yonge's copy has "purity" (BL Add. MS 35331; Pearl and Pearl 39 n.35.)

⁶ *Phœbus*: the sun.

⁷ *Tonnage Poundage*: tonnage and poundage was a customs levy usually granted by parliament to a king for life at the beginning of his reign. Parliament had failed to make this grant in 1625, but Charles I had continued to collect the tax anyway, prompting parliamentary protests in 1626, 1628 and 1629.
