

Pi29 Make haste I pray, launch out your shipps with speed

Notes. The version of this poem printed in the 1644 pamphlet Hell's Hurlie-Burlie is titled "The Duke of Buckingham's last voyage, written a little before his death". However, given its subject matter, and its thematic connection with other "Buckingham-in-hell" poems, the libel was most likely composed after the assassination.

"Upon the D. of B."¹

Make haste I pray, launch out your shipps with speed,

Our noble Duke had never greater need

Of sodaine succour, And those Vessells must

Bee his maine help; For there's his onely trust.

Alas! our English Navie is too poor²

5

To serve his turn alone; hee must have more:

Nyne more brave barques³ besides will help him well,

And make him shew more hideous then hell:

For thither sure his Voyage next will be,

Better for England then the Ile of Ree.⁴

10

The Furies,⁵ that can like himself dissemble,

Will either feare indeed, or seeme to tremble,

To heare a thunder then theirs one Note higher

And see even hell it selfe ore-spitt with fire.

O Lucifer,⁶ thou must resigne thy crown;

15

For thou shall meet a Duke will put thee downe.

Hee hath a sinne, besides the deadly seaven,⁷

More then e'er hell found out, to make them eaven;

For which (O hell-hounds) if you doe not grant

Him place, you will for ever want

20

Your greatest consort. Let there bee a dearth

Of fire in hell, as there is heere in Earth,

Only through him,⁸ And soe noe doubt there shall

If hee once come to bee your Admirall.⁹
 But why should I perswade you to bestow 25
 The place and honour on him, that you owe?
 His Highness shall commaund it, And his Port
 O'er-sway the greatest Noble in your court.
 Hee shalbee King there, Sitt in the Kings Throne,
 Or ells commaund the King; and thats all one. 30
 Nor shall the Theefe free favours there inheritt
 By any guift of yours, but by his meritt.
 Alas, poore Feinds, I grieve at your disgraces;
 For you must lose your Offices and places;
 And doe the best in all your powers to doe 35
 Hee will have all, and that too little too.
 But why should this bee knowne in hell? perchance
 The Furies would denie him Entrance,
 And Pluto,¹⁰ fearing to bee overcome
 At his owne weapon, not afford him roome 40
 In his best Pallace. And shall mortall Men
 Bee troubled with his countenance agen?
 Noe. Divells take your due: For, if there bee
 One you can claim in all the world, Its hee.

Source. BL MS Sloane 826, fols. 185v-186v

Other known sources. *Hell's Hurlie-Burlie* 6; Bodleian MS Malone 23, p. 201; PRO SP 16/114/68

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¹ *D. of B.*: Duke of Buckingham.

² *our English Navie is too poor*: allusion to Buckingham's alleged corruption and mismanagement of naval affairs as Lord Admiral.

³ *barques*: ships.

⁴ *Ile of Ree*: Buckingham commanded the costly and disastrous 1627 military expedition to the Ile de Ré (see Section O).

⁵ *The Furies*: the three avenging goddesses who dwelt beneath Hades, the classical realm of the dead, and inflicted punishments on the damned.

⁶ *Lucifer*: Satan, the ruler of hell.

⁷ *the deadly seaven*: the seven deadly sins are pride, wrath, envy, lust, avarice, gluttony and sloth.

⁸ *Let there bee...Only through him*: allusion to the dangerous shortage of gunpowder in England. The 1628 parliamentary Remonstancie against Buckingham included a section on the shortage, which it described as “a strange improvidence (we think your Majesty will rather call it treachery)” (*Proceedings in Parliament, 1628* 4.315).

⁹ *Admirall*: Buckingham was Lord Admiral of England.

¹⁰ *Pluto*: ruler of Hades.
