

A5 Courts commender states mantayner

Notes. This is a point-for-point answer to “*Courts scorne, states disgracing*”, reversing the charges made in that poem. In one source it is attributed to Raleigh himself (Bodleian MS Ashmole 781).

“In reproofe of this made by the first”

Courts commender states mantayner

Potentates defender, goverments gayner

Prelats prayser, churches preacher

Arts rayser, vertues teacher,

Ages rewarder, honors strengthener

Witts admirer, wisdoms scholler

Physicks desirer, laws follower

Fortunes blamer, natures observer

Justice proclaymer, friendshippes preserver.

Such is the author, such is the songe

Returninge the halter,¹ contemninge the wronge.

5

10

Source. Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 212, fol. 91r

Other known sources. Bodleian MS Ashmole 781, p. 164; Bodleian MS Rawl. Poet. 172, fol. 13r

A5

¹ *halter*: a noose for a hanging.
