

**Classic Poetry Series**

**Henry King**  
**- poems -**

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# Henry King(16 January 1592 – 30 September 1669)

Henry King was an English poet and bishop.

## <b>Life</b>

The eldest son of John King, Bishop of London, and his wife Joan Freeman, he was baptised at Worminghall, Buckinghamshire, 16 January 1592. He was educated at Lord Williams's School, Westminster School and in 1608 became a student of Christ Church, Oxford. With his brother John King he matriculated 20 January 1609, and was admitted (19 June 1611 and 7 July 1614) to the degrees of bachelor and master of arts. On 24 January 1616 he was collated to the prebend of St. Pancras in St. Paul's Cathedral, receiving at the same time the office of penitentiary or confessor in the cathedral, together with the rectory and patronage of Chigwell, Essex. He was made archdeacon of Colchester on 10 April 1617, and soon afterwards received the sinecure rectory of Fulham, in addition to being appointed one of the royal chaplains. All these preferments he held until he was advanced to the episcopal bench. Late in 1617 he preached a sermon at Paul's Cross. About this time King married Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Berkeley, esq., and granddaughter of Sir Maurice Berkeley. There were four or five children of the marriage, but only two survived. His wife died about 1624, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, aged just 23.

He was a close friend of <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/john-donne/">John Donne</a>, who made him one of his executors, and presented him with his sermons in manuscript, and notes from his reading on over 1400 authors. Other friends were <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/ben-jonson/">Ben Jonson</a>, <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/george-sandys/">George Sandys</a>, Sir Henry Blount, and James Howell. His friendship with <a href="http://www.poemhunter.com/izaak-walton/">Izaak Walton</a> began about 1634, and was lifelong.

After his father's death, on Good Friday 1621, a rumour circulated that he had died in communion with the church of Rome. This was the subject of a later pamphlet attributed to George Musket. King preached a sermon on 25 November 1621. He was made canon of Christ Church 3 March 1624, and his brother John was made canon in the following August. On 19 May 1625 they were admitted to the degrees of B.D. and D.D.

On 6 February 1639 he was made dean of Rochester, and on 6 February 1642, the day after the House of Lords had passed the bill to deprive the bishops of their votes, he became Bishop of Chichester; he was also presented to the

rectory of Petworth in Sussex. He was residing at his episcopal palace when Chichester surrendered to the parliament in 1643, and his library was seized. He was deprived of the rectory of Petworth, which was given by parliament to Francis Cheynell, and by a resolution of the House of Commons, 27 June 1643, his estates were ordered to be sequestrated. From 1643 to 1651 he lived in the house of his brother-in-law, Sir Richard Hobart of Langley, Buckinghamshire.

Shortly afterwards King retired to Ritchings, near Langley, the residence of Lady Anne Salter (supposed to be the sister of Brian Duppa, where other members of the King family and John Hales of Eton found refuge. In 1659 King was engaged in negotiations for supplying the vacant bishoprics, and was reinstated at the Restoration, returning to Chichester. On 20 May 1661 he preached at Whitehall, and on 24 April 1662 he delivered an impressive funeral sermon on Bishop Duppa at Westminster Abbey. King died at Chichester 30 September 1669, and was buried in Chichester Cathedral, where the widow of his son John erected a monument to his memory and that of her husband. His second son, Henry, died 21 February 1669; his eldest son, John, died 10 March 1671.

### **<b>Works</b>**

King wrote many elegies on royal persons and on his private friends, who included John Donne and Ben Jonson. A selection from his Poems and Psalms was published in 1843.

# A Contemplation Upon Flowers

BRAVE flowers--that I could gallant it like you,  
And be as little vain!  
You come abroad, and make a harmless show,  
And to your beds of earth again.  
You are not proud: you know your birth:  
For your embroider'd garments are from earth.

You do obey your months and times, but I  
Would have it ever Spring:  
My fate would know no Winter, never die,  
Nor think of such a thing.  
O that I could my bed of earth but view  
And smile, and look as cheerfully as you!

O teach me to see Death and not to fear,  
But rather to take truce!  
How often have I seen you at a bier,  
And there look fresh and spruce!  
You fragrant flowers! then teach me, that my breath  
Like yours may sweeten and perfume my death.

Henry King

# A Penitential Hymne

Hearken O God unto a Wretches cries  
Who low dejected at thy footstool lies.  
Let not the clamour of my heinous sin  
Drown my requests, which strive to enter in  
At those bright gates, which alwaies open stand  
To such as beg remission at thy hand.  
Too well I know, if thou in rigour deal  
I can nor pardon ask, nor yet appeal:  
To my hoarse voice, heaven will no audience grant,  
But deaf as brass, and hard as adamant  
Beat back my words; therefore I bring to thee  
A gracious Advocate to plead for me.  
What though my leprous soul no Jordan can  
Recure, nor floods of the lav'd Ocean  
Make clean? yet from my Saviours bleeding side  
Two large and medicinable rivers glide.  
Lord, wash me where those streams of life abound,  
And new Bethesdaes flow from ev'ry wound.  
If I this precious Lather may obtain,  
I shall not then despair for any stain;  
I need no Gileads balm, nor oyl, nor shall  
I for the purifying Hyssop call:  
My spots will vanish in His purple flood,  
And Crimson there turn white, though washt with blood.  
See Lord! with broken heart and bended knee,  
How I address my humble suit to Thee;  
O give that suit admittance to thy ears  
Which floats to thee not in my words but tears:  
And let my sinful soul this mercy crave  
Before I fall into the silent grave.

Henry King

# A Renunciation

WE, that did nothing study but the way  
To love each other, with which thoughts the day  
Rose with delight to us and with them set,  
Must learn the hateful art, how to forget.  
We, that did nothing wish that Heaven could give  
Beyond ourselves, nor did desire to live  
Beyond that wish, all these now cancel must,  
As if not writ in faith, but words and dust.  
Yet witness those clear vows which lovers make,  
Witness the chaste desires that never brake  
Into unruly heats; witness that breast  
Which in thy bosom anchor'd his whole rest--  
'Tis no default in us: I dare acquite  
Thy maiden faith, thy purpose fair and white  
As thy pure self. Cross planets did envy  
Us to each other, and Heaven did untie  
Faster than vows could bind. Oh, that the stars,  
When lovers meet, should stand opposed in wars!

Since then some higher Destinies command,  
Let us not strive, nor labour to withstand  
What is past help. The longest date of grief  
Can never yield a hope of our relief:  
Fold back our arms; take home our fruitless loves,  
That must new fortunes try, like turtle-doves  
Dislodged from their haunts. We must in tears  
Unwind a love knit up in many years.  
In this last kiss I here surrender thee  
Back to thyself.--So, thou again art free:  
Thou in another, sad as that, resend  
The truest heart that lover e'er did lend.  
Now turn from each: so fare our sever'd hearts  
As the divorced soul from her body parts.

Henry King

# A Salutation Of His Majesties Ship The Sovereign

Move on thou floating Trophée built to fame!  
And bid her trump spread thy Majestick name;  
That the blew Tritons, and those petty Gods  
Which sport themselves upon the dancing floods,  
May bow as to their Neptune, when they feel  
The awful pressure of thy potent keel.  
Great wonder of the time! whose form unites,  
In one aspect two warring opposites,  
Delight and horreur; and in them portends  
Diff'ring events both to thy foes and friends:  
To these thy radiant brow, Peaces bright Shrine,  
Doth like that golden Constellation shine,  
Which guides the Sea man with auspicious beams,  
Safe and unshipwrackt through the troubled streams.  
But, as a blazing Meteor, to those  
It doth ostents of blood and death disclose.  
For thy rich Decks lighten like Heavens fires,  
To usher forth the thunder of thy Tires.  
O never may cross wind, or swelling wave  
Conspire to make the treach'rous sands thy grave:  
Nor envious rocks in their white foamy laugh  
Rejoyce to wear thy losses Epitaph.  
But may the smoothest, most successful gales  
Distend thy sheet, and wing thy flying sailes:  
That all designs which must on thee embark,  
May be securely plac't as in the Ark.  
May'st thou, where ere thy streamers shall display,  
Enforce the bold disputers to obey:  
That they whose pens are sharper then their swords,  
May yield in fact what they deny'd in words.  
Thus when th' amazed world our Seas shall see  
Shut from Usurpers, to their own Lord free,  
Thou may'st returning from the conquer'd Main,  
With thine own Triumphs be crown'd Sovereign.

Henry King

# An Acknowledgment

My best of friends! what needs a chain to tie  
One by your merit bound a Votarie?  
Think you I have some plot upon my peace,  
I would this bondage change for a release?  
Since 'twas my fate your prisoner to be,  
Heav'n knows I nothing fear but libertie.  
Yet you do well that study to prevent,  
After so rich a stock of favour spent  
On one so worthless, lest my memory  
Should let so dear an obligation dy  
Without Record. This made my precious Friend  
Her Token, as an Antidote to send  
Against forgetful poysons. That as they  
Who Vespers late, and early Mattins say  
Upon their Beads, so on this linked skore  
In golden numbers I might reckon ore  
Your vertues and my debt, which does surmount  
The trivial laws of Popular account:  
For that within this emblematick knot  
Your beauteous mind, and my own fate is wrote.  
The sparkling constellation which combines  
The Lock, is your dear self, whose worth outshines  
Most of your sex: so solid and so clear  
You like a perfect Diamond appear;  
Casting from your example fuller light  
Then those dimme sparks which glaze the brow of night,  
And gladding all your friends, as doth the ray  
Of that East-starre which wakes the cheerful day.  
But the black Map of death and discontent  
Behind that Adamantine firmament,  
That luckless figure which like Calvary  
Stands strew'd and cobby'd out in skuls, is I;  
Whose life your absence clouds, and makes my time  
Move blindfold in the dark ecliptick line.  
Then wonder not if my removed Sun  
So low within the Western Tropick run;  
My eyes no day in this Horizon see,  
Since where You are not all is night to me.  
Lastly, the anchor which enfastned lies

Upon a pair of deaths, sadly applies  
That Monument of Rest which harbour must  
Our Ship-wrackt fortunes in a road of dust.  
So then how late soere my joyless life  
Be tired out in this affections strife:  
Though my tempestuous fancie like the skie  
Travail with stormes, and through my watry eie  
Sorrows high-going waves spring many a leak;  
Though sighs blow loud til my hearts cordage break;  
Though Faith, and all my wishes prove untrue,  
Yet Death shall fix and anchor Me with You.  
'Tis some poor comfort that this mortal scope  
Will Period, though never Crown my Hope.

Henry King

# An Elegy Occasioned By The Losse Of The Most Incomparable Lady Stanhope, Daughter To The Earl Of Northumberland

Lightned by that dimme Torch our sorrow bears  
We sadly trace thy Coffin with our tears;  
And though the Ceremonious Rites are past  
Since thy fair body into earth was cast;  
Though all thy Hatchments into ragges are torne,  
Thy Funerall Robes and Ornaments outworn;  
We still thy mourners without Shew or Art,  
With solemn Blacks hung round about our heart,  
Thus constantly the Obsequies renew  
Which to thy precious memory are due.  
Yet think not that we rudely would invade  
The dark recess of thine untroubled shade,  
Or give disturbance to that happy peace  
Which thou enjoy'st at full since thy release;  
Much less in sullen murmurs do complain  
Of His decree who took thee back again,  
And did e're Fame had spread thy vertues light,  
Eclipse and fold thee up in endless night.  
This like an act of envy not of grief  
Might doubt thy bliss, and shake our own belief,  
Whose studi'd wishes no proportion bear  
With joyes which crown thee now in glories sphere.  
Know then blest Soul! we for our selves not thee  
Seal our woes dictate by this Elegie:  
Wherein our tears united in one streame  
Shall to succeeding times convey this theme,  
Worth all mens pity who discern how rare  
Such early growths of fame and goodness are.  
Of these part must thy sexes loss bewail  
Maim'd in her noblest Patterns through thy fail;  
For 'twould require a double term of life  
To match thee as a daughter or a wife:  
Both which Northumberlands dear loss improve  
And make his sorrow equal to his love.  
The rest fall for our selves, who cast behind  
Cannot yet reach the Peace which thou dost find;

But slowly follow thee in that dull stage  
Which most untimely poasted hence thy age.  
Thus like religious Pilgrims who designe  
A short salute to their beloved Shrine,  
Most sad and humble Votaries we come  
To offer up our sighs upon thy Tomb,  
And wet thy Marble with our dropping eyes  
Which till the spring which feeds their current dries  
Resolve each falling night and rising day  
This mournfull homage at thy Grave to pay.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon Mrs. Kirk Unfortunately Drowned In Thames

For all the Ship-wracks, and the liquid graves  
Lost men have gain'd within the furrow'd waves,  
The Sea hath fin'd and for our wrongs paid use,  
When its wrought foam a Venus did produce.  
But what repair wilt thou unhappy Thames  
Afford our losse? thy dull unactive streames  
Can no new beauty raise, nor yet restore  
Her who by thee was ravisht from our shore:  
Whose death hath stain'd the glory of thy flood,  
And mixt the guilty Channel with her blood.  
O Neptune! was thy favour onely writ  
In that loose Element where thou dost sit?  
That after all this time thou should'st repent  
Thy fairest blessing to the Continent?  
Say, what could urge this Fate? is Thetis dead,  
Or Amphitrite from thy wet armes fled?  
Was't thou so poor in Nymphs, that thy moist love  
Must be maintain'd with pensions from above?  
If none of these, but that whil'st thou did'st sleep  
Upon thy sandy pillow in the deep,  
This mischief stole upon us: may our grief  
Waken thy just revenge on that slie thief,  
Who in thy fluid Empire without leave,  
And unsuspected, durst her life bereave.  
Henceforth invert thy order, and provide  
In gentlest floods a Pilot for our guide.  
Let rugged Seas be lov'd, but the Brooks smile  
Shunn'd like the courtship of a Crocodile;  
And where the Current doth most smoothly pass,  
Think for her sake that stream deaths Looking-glass,  
To shew us our destruction is most neer,  
When pleasure hath begot least sense of fear.  
Else break thy forked Scepter 'gainst some Rock,  
If thou endure a flatt'ring calm to mock  
Thy far-fam'd pow'r, and violate that law  
Which keeps the angry Ocean in aw.  
Thy Trident will grow useless, which doth still

Wild tempests, if thou let tame rivers kill.  
Mean time we ow thee nothing. Our first debt  
Lies cancell'd in thy watry Cabinet.  
We have for Her thou sent'st us from the Main,  
Return'd a Venus back to thee again.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon My Best Friend L. K. C.

Should we our Sorrows in this Method range,  
Oft as Misfortune doth their Subjects change,  
And to the sev'ral Losses which befall,  
Pay diff'rent Rites at ev'ry Funeral;  
Like narrow Springs drain'd by dispersed Streams,  
We must want Tears to wail such various Themes,  
And prove defective in Deaths mournfull Laws,  
Not having Words proportion'd to each Cause.  
In your Dear loss my much afflicted Sense,  
Discerns this Truth by sad experience,  
Who never Look'd my Verses should survive,  
As wet Records, That you are not Alive;  
And less desir'd to make that Promise due,  
Which pass'd from Me in jest, when urg'd by You.  
How close and slily doth our Frailty work!  
How undiscover'd in the Body lurk!  
That Those who this Day did salute you well,  
Before the Next were frighted by your Knell.  
O wherefore since we must in Order rise,  
Should we not Fall in equal Obsequies?  
But bear th' Assaults of an uneven Fate,  
Like Feavers which their Hour anticipate;  
Had this Rule constant been, my long wish'd End  
Might render you a Mourner for your Friend:  
As He for you, whose most deplor'd surprise  
Imprints your Death on all my Faculties;  
That hardly my dark Phant'sie or Discourse,  
This final Duty from the Pen inforce:  
Such Influence hath your Eclipsed Light,  
It doth my Reason like my Self benight.  
Let me, with Luckless Gamesters, then think best  
(After I have Set up and Lost my Rest,)  
Grow'n desp'rate through mischance, to Venture last  
My whole remaining Stock upon a Cast,  
And flinging from me my now Loathed Pen,  
Resolve for your Sake nev'r to Write agen:  
For whilst Successive days their Light renew,  
I must no Subject hope to Equal you,  
In whose Heroick Brest as in their Sphear,

All Graces of your Sex concentred were.  
Thus take I my long Farewell of that Art,  
Fit only glorious Actions to impart;  
That Art wherewith our Crosses we beguile,  
And make them in Harmonious numbers smile:  
Since you are gone, This holds no further use,  
Whose Virtue and Desert inspir'd my Muse.  
O may She in your Ashes Buried be,  
Whilst I my Self become the Elegie.  
And as it is observ'd when Princes Dye,  
In honour of that sad Solemnity,  
The now unoffic'd Servants crack their Staves,  
And throw them down into their Masters Graves:  
So this last Office of my broken Verse,  
I solemnly resign upon your Hearse;  
And my Brains moisture, all that is unspent,  
Shall melt to nothing at the Monument.  
Thus in moist Weather when the Marble weeps,  
You'l think it only his Tears reck'ning keeps,  
Who doth for ever to his Thoughts bequeath  
The Legacy of your lamented Death.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon S. W. R.

I will not weep, for 'twere as great a sin  
To shed a tear for thee, as to have bin  
An Actor in thy death. Thy life and age  
Was but a various Scene on fortunes Stage,  
With whom thou tugg'st & strov'st ev'n out of breath  
In thy long toil: nere master'd till thy death;  
And then despight of trains and cruell wit,  
Thou did'st at once subdue malice and it.  
I dare not then so blast thy memory  
As say I do lament or pity thee.  
Were I to choose a subject to bestow  
My pity on, he should be one as low  
In spirit as desert. That durst not dy  
But rather were content by slavery  
To purchase life: or I would pity those  
Thy most industrious and friendly foes:  
Who when they thought to make thee scandals story  
Lent thee a swifter flight to Heav'n and glory.  
That thought by cutting off some wither'd dayes,  
(Which thou could'st spare them) to eclipse thy praise;  
Yet gave it brighter foil, made thy ag'd fame  
Appear more white and fair, then foul their shame:  
And did promote an Execution  
Which (but for them) Nature and Age had done.  
Such worthless things as these were onely born  
To live on Pities almes (too mean for scorn.)  
Thou dy'dst an envious wonder, whose high fate  
The world must still admire, scarce imitate.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon The Death Of Mr. Edward Holt

Whether thy Fathers, or diseases rage,  
More mortal prov'd to thy unhappy age,  
Our sorrow needs not question; since the first  
Is known for length and sharpness much the worst.  
Thy Feaver yet was kind; which the ninth day  
For thy misfortunes made an easie way.  
When th' other barbarous and Hectick fit,  
In nineteen winters did not intermit.  
I therefore vainly now not ask thee why  
Thou didst so soon in thy Youths mid-way dy:  
But in my sence the greater wonder make  
Thy long oppressed heart no sooner brake.  
Of force must the neglected blossom fall  
When the tough root becomes unnaturall,  
And to his branches doth that sap deny,  
Which them with life and verdure should supply.  
For Parents shame, let it forgotten be,  
And may the sad example die with thee.  
It is not now thy grieved friends intent  
To render thee dull Pities argument.  
Thou hast a bolder title unto fame,  
And at Edge-Hill thou didst make good the claime;  
When in thy Royal Masters Cause and Warre  
Thy ventur'd life brought off a noble skarre.  
Nor did thy faithful services desist  
Till death untimely strook thee from the List.  
Though in that prouder vault then, which doth tomb  
Thy ancestors, thy body find not room,  
Thine own deserts have purchas'd thee a place,  
Which more renowned is then all thy race;  
For in this earth thou dost ennobled ly  
With marks of Valour and of Loyalty.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon The Immature Loss Of The Most Vertuous Lady Anne Rich

I envy not thy mortal triumphs, Death,  
(Thou enemy to Vertue as to Breath)  
Nor do I wonder much, nor yet complain  
The weekly numbers by thy arrow slain.  
The whole world is thy Factory, and we  
Like traffick driven and retail'd by Thee:  
And where the springs of life fill up so fast,  
Some of the waters needs must run to waste.  
It is confest, yet must our griefs dispute  
That which thine own conclusion doth refute  
Ere we begin. Hearken! for if thy ear  
Be to thy throat proportion'd, thou canst hear.  
Is there no order in the work of Fate?  
Nor rule, but blindly to anticipate  
Our growing seasons? or think'st thou 'tis just,  
To sprinkle our fresh blossomes with thy dust,  
Till by abortive funerals, thou bring  
That to an Autumn Nature meant a Spring?  
Is't not enough for thee that wither'd age  
Lies the unpiti'd subject of thy rage;  
But like an ugly Amorist, thy crest  
Must be with spoyles of Youth and Beauty drest?  
In other Camps, those which sate down to day  
March first to morrow, and they longest stay  
Who last came to the service: But in thine,  
Onely confusion stands for discipline.  
We fall in such promiscuous heaps, none can  
Put any diff'rence 'twixt thy Rear or Van;  
Since oft the youngest lead thy Files. For this  
The grieved world here thy accuser is,  
And I a Plaintiff, 'mongst those many ones  
Who wet this Ladies Urn with zealous moanes;  
As if her ashes quick'ning into years  
Might be again embody'd by our tears  
But all in vain; the moisture we bestow  
Shall make assoon her curled Marble grow,  
As render heat, or motion to that blood,

Which through her veins branch't like an azure flood;  
Whose now still Current in the grave is lost,  
Lock't up, and fetter'd by eternal frost.  
Desist from hence, doting Astrology!  
To search for hidden wonders in the sky;  
Or from the concourse of malignant starres  
Foretel diseases gen'ral as our warres:  
What barren droughts, forerunners of lean dearth:  
Threaten to starve the plenty of the earth:  
What horrid forms of darkness must affright  
The sickly world, hast'ning to that long night  
Where it must end. If there no Portents are,  
No black eclipses for the Kalendar,  
Our times sad Annals will remembred be  
Ith' loss of bright Northumberland and Thee:  
Two Starres of Court, who in one fatal year  
By most untimely set dropt from their Sphear.  
Shee in the winter took her flight, and soon  
As her perfections reach't the point of Noon,  
Wrapt in a cloud, contracted her wisht stay  
Unto the measure of a short-liv'd day.  
But Thou in Summer, like an early Rose  
By Deaths cold hand nipp'd as Thou didst disclose,  
Took'st a long day to run that narrow stage,  
Which in two gasping minutes summ'd thy age.  
And, as the fading Rose, when the leaves shed  
Lies in its native sweetness buried,  
Thou in thy vertues bedded and inherst  
Sleep'st with those odours thy pure fame disperst.  
Where till that Rising Morn thou must remain,  
In which thy wither'd flowres shall spring again.  
And greater beauties thy wak't body vest  
Then were at thy departure here possest.  
So with full eyes we close thy vault. Content  
(With what thy loss bequeaths us) to lament,  
And make that use of thy griev'd funerall,  
As of a Chrystall broken in the fall;  
Whose pittid fractures gather'd up, and set,  
May smaller Mirrours for Thy Sex beget;  
There let them view themselves, untill they see  
The end of all their glories shew'n in Thee.  
Whil'st in the truth of this sad tribute, I

Thus strive to Canonize thy Memory.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon The L. Bishop Of London John King

Sad Relick of a blessed Soul! whose trust  
We sealed up in this religious dust.  
O do not thy low Exequies suspect  
As the cheap arguments of our neglect.  
'Twas a commanded duty that thy grave  
As little pride as thou thy self should have.  
Therefore thy covering is an humble stone,  
And but a word for thy inscription.  
When those that in the same earth neighbour thee,  
Have each his Chronicle and Pedigree:  
They have their waving pennons and their flagges,  
(Of Matches and Alliance formal bragges.)  
VVhen thou (although from Ancestors thou came  
Old as the Heptarchy, great as thy Name)  
Sleep'st there inshrin'd in thy admired parts,  
And hast no Heraldry but thy deserts.  
Yet let not Them their prouder Marbles boast,  
For They rest with less honour, though more cost.  
Go, search the world, and with your Mattocks wound  
The groaning bosom of the patient ground:  
Digge from the hidden veins of her dark womb  
All that is rare and precious for a tomb:  
Yet when much treasure, and more time is spent  
You must grant His the nobler Monument.  
Whose Faith stands ore Him for a Hearse, and hath  
The Resurrection for His Epitaph.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon The Most Incomparable K. Charles The First

Call for amazed thoughts, a wounded sense  
And bleeding Hearts at our Intelligence.  
Call for that Trump of Death the Mandrakes Groan  
Which kills the Hearers: This befits alone  
Our Story which through times vast Kalendar  
Must stand without Example or Repair.  
What spowts of melting Clouds what endless springs  
Powr'd in the Oceans lapp for offerings  
Shall feed the hungry torrent of our grief  
Too mighty for expression or belief?  
Though all those moistures which the brain attracts  
Ran from our eyes like gushing Cataracts,  
Or our sad accents could out-tongue the Cryes  
Which did from mournful Hadadrimmon rise  
Since that remembrance of Josiah slain  
In our King's murther is reviv'd again.  
O pardon me that but from Holy Writ  
Our losse allowes no Parallel to it:  
Nor call it bold presumption that I dare  
Charles with the best of Judah's Kings compare:  
The vertues of whose life did I prefer  
The Text acquits me for no Flatterer.  
For He like David perfect in his trust,  
Was never stayn'd like Him, with Blood or Lust.  
One who with Solomon in Judgement try'd,  
Was quick to comprehend, Wise to decide,  
(That even his Judges stood amaz'd to hear  
A more transcendent Moover in their Sphear)  
Though more Religious: for when doting Love  
A while made Solomon Apostate proove  
Charles nev'r endur'd the Truth which he profest  
To be unfixt by Bosome interest.  
Bold as Jehosaphat, yet forc'd to Fight,  
And for his own, no unconcerned Right.  
Should I recount His constant time of Pray'r  
Each rising Morn and Ev'ning Regular  
You'ld say his practice preach'd They ought not Eat

Who by devotion first not earn'd their Meat.  
 Thus Hezekiah He exceeds in Zeal,  
 Though not (like him) So facile to reveal  
 The Treasures of Gods House, or His own Heart  
 To be supplanted by some forcin art.  
 And that he might in fame with Joash share  
 When he the ruin'd Temple did repair,  
 His cost on Paules late ragged Fabrick spent  
 Must (if no other) be His Monument.  
 From this Survey the Kingdom may conclude  
 His Merits, and her Losses Magnitude.  
 Nor think he flatters or blasphememes, who tells  
 That Charls exceeds Judea's Parallels,  
 In whom all Vertues we concentred see  
 Which 'mongst the best of them divided be.  
 O weak built Glories! which those Tempests feel  
 To force you from your firmest bases reel,  
 What from the stroaks of Chance shall you secure,  
 When Rocks of Innocence are so unsure?  
 When the World's only mirror slaughter'd lies,  
 Envies and Treasons bleeding sacrificize?  
 As if His stock of Goodnesse could become  
 No Kalendar, but that of Martyrdom.  
 See now ye cursed Mountebanks of State,  
 Who have Eight years for Reformation sate;  
 You who dire Alva's Counsels did transfer  
 To Act his Scenes on England's Theater;  
 You who did pawn your Selves in Publick Faith  
 To slave the Kingdome by your Pride and Wrath;  
 Call the whole World to witnesse now, how just,  
 How well you are responsive to your trust,  
 How to your King the promise you perform,  
 With Fasts, and Sermons, and long Prayers sworn,  
 That you intended Peace and Truth to bring  
 To make your Charls Europes most Glorious King.  
 Did you for this Lift up your Hands on high,  
 To Kill the King, and pluck down Monarchy?  
 These are the Fruits by your vvild Faction sown,  
 Which not Imputed are, but Born your own.  
 For though you wisely seem to wash your Hands,  
 The Guilt on every Vote and Order stands.  
 So that convinc'd from all you did before,

Justice must lay the Murther at your Door.  
Mark if the Body does not Bleed anew,  
In any Circumstance approach'd by You,  
From whose each motion we might plain descry  
The black Ostents of this late Tragedy.  
For when the King through Storms in Scotland bred  
To his Great Council for his shelter fled,  
When in that meeting every Error gain'd  
Redresses sooner granted, than Complain'd:  
Not all those frank Concessions or Amends  
Did suit the then too Powerfull Faction's ends,  
No Acts of Grace at present would Content,  
Nor Promise of Triennial Parl'ament,  
Till by a formal Law the King had past  
This Session should at Your pleasure last.  
So having got the Bitt, and that 'twas known  
No power could dissolve You but Your own,  
Your gracelesse Junto make such use of this,  
As once was practis'd by Semiramis;  
Who striving by a subtile Sute to prove  
The largenesse of her Husbands Trust and Love,  
Did from the much abused King obtain  
That for three dayes She might sole Empresse reign:  
Before which time expir'd, the bloody Wife  
Depriv'd her Lord both of his Crown and Life.  
There needs no Comment when your deeds apply  
The Demonstration of her Treachery.  
Which to effect by Absolon's foul wile  
You of the Peoples Heart your Prince beguile;  
Urging what Eases they might reap by it  
Did you their Legislative Judges sit.  
How did you fawn upon, and Court the Rout,  
Whose Clamour carry'd your whole Plot about?  
How did you thank Seditious men that came  
To bring Petitions which your selves did frame?  
And lest they wanted Hands to set them on,  
You lead the way by throwing the first stone.  
For in that Libel after Midnight born,  
Wherewith your Faction labour'd till the Morn,  
That famous Lye, you a Remonstrance name;  
Were not Reproaches your malicious aim?  
Was not the King's dishonour your intent

By Slanders to traduce his Government?  
All which your spiteful Cunning did contrive  
Men must receive through your false Perspective,  
In which the smallest Spots improved were,  
And every Mote a Mountain did appear.  
Thus Cæsar by th'ungrateful Senate found  
His Life assaulted through his Honor's Wound.  
And now to make Him hopelesse to resist,  
You guide His Sword by Vote, which as you list  
Must Strike or Spare (for so you did enforce  
His Hand against His Reason to divorce  
Brave Strafford's Life) then wring it quite away  
By your usurping Each Militia:  
Then seize His Magazines, of which possest  
You turn the Weapons 'gainst their Master's Breast.  
This done, th'unkennell'd crew of Lawless men  
Led down by Watkins, Pennington, and Ven,  
Did with confused noise the Court invade;  
Then all Dissenters in Both Houses Bay'd.  
At which the King amaz'd is forc'd to flye,  
The whilst your Mouth's laid on maintain the Cry.  
The Royal Game dislodg'd and under Chase,  
Your hot Pursute dogs Him from place to place:  
Not Saul with greater fury or disdain  
Did flying David from Jeshimon's plain  
Unto the barren Wildernesse pursue,  
Than Cours'd and Hunted is the King by you.  
The Mountain Partridge or the Chased Roe  
Might now for Emblemes of His Fortune go.  
And since all other May-games of the Town  
(Save those your selves should make) were Voted down,  
The Clam'rous Pu'pit Hollaes in resort,  
Inviting men to your King-catching Sport.  
Where as the Foyle grows cold you mend the Sent  
By crying Privilege of Parliament,  
Whose fair Pretensions the first sparkles are,  
Which by your breath blown up enflame the War,  
And Ireland (bleeding by design) the Stale  
Wherewith for Men and Mony you prevail.  
Yet doubting that Imposture could not last,  
When all the Kingdoms Mines of Treasure waste,  
You now tear down Religion's sacred Hedge

To carry on the Work by Sacrilege;  
Reputing it Rebellions fittest Pay  
To take both God's and Cesar's dues away.  
The tenor of which execrable Vote  
Your over-active Zelots so promote,  
That neither Tomb nor Temple could escape,  
Nor Dead nor Living your Licentious Rape.  
Statues and Grave-stones o're men buried  
Rob'd of their Brass, the Coffins of their Led;  
Not the Seventh Henry's gilt and curious Skreen,  
Nor those which 'mongst our Rarities were seen,  
The Chests wherein the Saxon Monarchs lay,  
But must be basely sold or thrown away.  
May in succeeding times forgotten be  
Those bold Examples of Impiety,  
Which were the Ages wonder and discourse,  
You have Their greatest ills improv'd by worse.  
No more be mention'd Dionysius Theft,  
Who of their Gold the Heathen Shrines bereft;  
For who with Yours His Robberies confer,  
Must him repute a petty Pilferer.  
Nor Julian's Scoff, who when he view'd the State  
Of Antioch's Church, the Ornaments and Plate,  
Cry'd, Meaner Vessels would serve turn, or None  
Might well become the birth of Mary's Sonn  
Nor how that spightfull Atheist did in scorn  
Pisse on God's Table, which so oft had born  
The hallow'd Elements his death present:  
Nor he that foul'd it with his Excrement,  
Then turn'd the Cloth unto that act of shame,  
Which without trembling Christians should not name.  
Nor John of Leyden, who the pillag'd Quires  
Employ'd in Munster for his own attires;  
His pranks by Hazlerig exceeded be,  
A wretch more wicked and as mad as he,  
Who once in triumph led his Sumpter Moil  
Proudly bedecked with the Altar's spoil.  
Nor at Bizantium's sack how Mahomet  
In St. Sophia's Church his Horses set.  
Nor how Belshazzar at his drunken Feasts  
Carow'd in holy Vessels to his Guests:  
Nor he that did the Books and Anthems tear,

Which in the daily Stations used were.  
These were poor Essayes of imperfect Crimes,  
Fit for beginners in unlearned times,  
Siz'd onely for that dull Meridian  
Which knew no Jesuit nor Puritan,  
(Before whose fatal Birth were no such things  
As Doctrines to Depose and Murther Kings.)  
But since Your prudent care Enacted well,  
That there should be no King in Israel,  
England must write such Annals of Your Reign  
Which all Records of elder mischiefs stain.  
Churches unbuilt by order, others burn'd;  
Whilst Pauls and Lincoln are to Stables turn'd;  
And at God's Table you might Horses see  
By (those more Beasts) their Riders manger'd be.  
Some Kitchens and some Slaughter-houses made,  
Communion-boards and Cloths for Dressers laid:  
Some turn'd to loathsome Gaols, so by you brought  
Unto the Curse of Baal's House, a Draught.  
The Common-Prayers with the Bibles torn,  
The Coaps in Antick Moorish-Dances worn,  
And sometimes for the wearers greater mock,  
The Surplice is converted to a Frock.  
Some bringing Dogs the Sacrament revile,  
Some with Copronimus the Font defile.  
O God! canst Thou these prophanations like?  
If not, why is thy Thunder slow to strike  
The cursed Authors? who dare think that Thou  
Dost, when not punish them, their acts allow.  
All which outrageous Crimes, though your pretence  
Would fasten on the Soldiers insolence,  
We must believe that what by them was done  
Came licens'd forth by your probation.  
For, as your selves with Athaliah's Brood  
In strong contention for precedence stood,  
You robb'd Two Royall Chapels of their Plate,  
Which Kings and Queens to God did dedicate;  
Then by a Vote more sordid than the Stealth,  
Melt down and Coin it for the Common-wealth;  
That is, give't up to the devouring jaws  
Of your great Idol Bell, new styl'd The Cause.  
And though this Monster you did well devise

To feed by Plunder, Taxes, Loans, Excise;  
(All which Provisions You the People tell  
Scarce serve to diet Your Pantagruel.)  
We no strew'd Ashes need to trace the Cheat,  
Who plainly see what Mouthes the Messes eat.  
Brave Reformation! and a through one too,  
Which to enrich Your selves must All undo.  
Pray tell us (those that can) What fruits have grown  
From all Your Seeds in Blood and Treasure sown?  
What would you mend? when Your Projected State  
Doth from the Best in Form degenerate?  
Or why should You (of All) attempt the Cure,  
Whose Facts nor Gospels Test nor Laws endure?  
But like unwholsome Exhalations met  
From Your Conjunction onely Plagues beget,  
And in Your Circle, as Imposthumes fill  
Which by their venome the whole Body kill;  
For never had You Pow'r but to Destroy,  
Nor Will, but where You Conquer'd to Enjoy.  
This was Your Master-prize, who did intend  
To make both Church and Kingdom's prey Your End.  
'Gainst which the King (plac'd in the Gap) did strive  
By His (till then unquestion'd) Negative,  
Which finding You lack'd Reason to perswade,  
Your Arguments are into Weapons made;  
So to compell him by main force to yield,  
You had a Formed Army in the Field  
Before his Reared Standard could invite  
Ten men upon his Righteous Cause to fight.  
Yet ere those raised Forces did advance,  
Your malice struck him dead by Ordinance,  
When your Commissions the whole Kingdom swept  
With Blood and Slaughter, Not the King Except.  
Now hardned in Revolt, You next proceed  
By Pacts to strengthen each Rebellious Deed,  
New Oaths, and Vows, and Covenants advance,  
All contradicting your Allegiance,  
Whose Sacred knot you plainly did unty,  
When you with Essex swore to Live and Die.  
These were your Calves in Bethel and in Dan,  
Which Jeroboam's Treason stablish can,  
Who by strange Pacts and Altars did seduce

The People to their Laws and and King's abuse;  
All which but serve like Soibboleth to try  
Those who pronounc'd not your Conspiracy;  
That when your other Trains defective are,  
Forc'd Oaths might bring Refusers to the Snare.  
And lest those men your Counsels did pervert,  
Might when your Fraud was seen the Cause desert,  
A fierce Decree is through the Kingdom sent,  
Which made it Death for any to Repent.  
What strange Dilemmaes doth Rebellion make?  
'Tis mortal to Deny, or to Partake:  
Some Hang who would not aid your Traiterous Act,  
Others engag'd are Hang'd if they Retract.  
So Witches who their Contracts have unsworn,  
By their own Devils are in pieces torn.  
Thus still the rageing Tempest higher grows,  
Which in Extreame the Kings Resolving throws.  
The face of Ruine every where appears,  
And Acts of Outrage multiply our fears;  
Whilst blind Ambition by Successes fed  
Hath You beyond the bound of Subjects led,  
Who tasting once the sweet of Regal Sway,  
Resolved now no longer to obey.  
For Presbyterian pride contests as high  
As doth the Popedom for Supremacy.  
Needs must you with unskilful Phaeton  
Aspire to guide the Chariot of the Sun,  
Though your ill-govern'd height with lightning be  
Thrown headlong from his burning Axle-tree.  
You will no more Petition or Debate,  
But your desire in Propositions state,  
Which by such Rules and Ties the King confine,  
They in effect are Summons to Resign.  
Therefore your War is manag'd with such sleight,  
'Twas seen you more prevail'd by Purse than Might;  
And those you could not purchase to your will,  
You brib'd with sums of mony to sit still.  
The King by this time hopelesse here of Peace,  
Or to procure His wasted Peoples ease,  
Which He in frequent Messages had try'd,  
By you as oft as shamelesly deny'd;  
Wearied by faithlesse Friends and restlesse Foes,

To certain hazard doth His Life Expose:  
When through your Quarters in a mean disguise  
He to His Country-men for succour flies,  
Who met a brave occasion then to save  
Their Native King from His untimely Grave:  
Had he from them such fair reception gain'd,  
Wherewith ev'n Achish David entertain'd.  
But Faith to Him or hospitable Laws  
In your Confederate Union were no Clause,  
Which back to you their Rendred Master sends  
To tell how He was us'd among his friends.  
Far be it from my thoughts by this black Line  
To measure all within that Warlick Clime;  
The still admir'd Montross some Numbers lead  
In his brave steps of Loyalty to tread.  
I onely tax a furious Party There,  
Who with our Native Pests Enleagued were.  
Then 'twas you follow'd Him with Hue and Cry,  
Made Midnight Searches in Each Liberty,  
Voting it death to all without Reprieve,  
Who should their Master Harbor or Relieve.  
Ev'n in pure pitty of both Nations Fame,  
I wish that Act in Story had no name.  
When all your Mutual Stipulations are  
Converted at Newcastle to a Fair,  
Where (like His Lord) the King the Mart is made,  
Bought with Your Mony, and by Them Betraid;  
For both are guilty, They that did Contract,  
And You that did the fatal Bargain Act.  
Which who by equal Reason shall peruse,  
Must yet conclude, They had the best Excuse:  
For doubtlesse They (Good men) had never sold,  
But that you tempted Them with English Gold;  
And 'tis no wonder if with such a Sum  
Our Brethrens frailty might be overcome.  
What though hereafter it may prove Their Lot  
To be compared with Iscariot?  
Yet will the World perceive which was most wise,  
And who the Nobler Traitor by the Price;  
For though 'tis true Both did Themselves undo,  
They made the better Bargain of the Two,  
Which all may reckon who can difference

Two hundred thousand Pounds from Thirty Pence.  
However something is in Justice due,  
Which may be spoken in defence of You;  
For in your Masters Purchase you gave more,  
Than all your Jewish kindred paid before.  
And had you wisely us'd what then you bought,  
Your Act might be a Loyal Ransom thought,  
To free from Bonds your Captive Sovereign,  
Restoring Him to his lost Crown again.  
But You had other plots, you busie hate  
Ply'd all advantage on His fallen State,  
And shew'd You did not come to bring Him Bayl,  
But to remove Him to a stricter Gaol,  
To Holmby first, whence taken from His Bed,  
He by an Army was in triumph led;  
Till on pretence of safety Cromwel's wife  
Had juggel'd Him into the Fatal Isle,  
Where Hammond for his Jaylor is decreed,  
And Murderous Rolf as Lieger-Hangman fee'd,  
Who in one fatal Knot Two Counsels tye,  
He must by Poison or by Pistol Die.  
Here now deny'd all Comforts due to Life,  
His Friends, His Children, and His Peerlesse Wife;  
From Carisbrook He oft but vainly sends,  
And though first Wrong'd, seeks to make you Amends;  
For this He sues, and by His restlesse Pen  
Importunes Your deaf Ears to Treat agen.  
Whilst the proud Faction scorning to go lesse,  
Return those Trait'rous Votes of Non Address,  
Which follow'd were by th'Armies thundring  
To Act without and quite against the King.  
Yet when that Clowd remov'd, and the clear Light,  
Drawn from His weighty Reasons, gave You sight  
Of Your own dangers, had not Their Intents  
Retarded been by some crosse Accidents;  
Which for a while with fortunate Suspense  
Check'd or diverted Their swoln Insolence:  
When the whole Kingdom for a Treaty cry'd,  
Which gave such credit to Your falling side,  
That you Recall'd those Votes, and God once more  
Your Power to save the Kingdom did restore,  
Remember how Your peevish Treators sate,

Not to make Peace, but to prolong Debate;  
How You that precious time at first delay'd,  
And what ill use of Your advantage made,  
As if from Your foul hands God had decreed  
Nothing but War and Mischief should succeed.  
For when by easie Grants the Kings Assent  
Did your desires in greater things prevent,  
When He did yield faster than You intreat,  
And more than Modesty dares well repeat;  
Yet not content with this, without all sense,  
Or of His Honor or His Conscience,  
Still you prest on, till you too late descry'd,  
'Twas now lesse safe to stay than be deny'd.  
For like a Flood broke loose the Armed Rout,  
Then Shut Him closer up, And Shut You out,  
Who by just vengeance are since Worried  
By those Hand-wolves You for His Ruine bred.  
Thus like Two Smoaking Firebrands, You and They  
Have in this Smother choak'd the Kingdom's Day.  
And as you rais'd Them first, must share the Guilt,  
With all the Blood in those Distractions spilt.  
For though with Sampson's Foxes backward turn'd,  
(When he Philistia's fruitful Harvest burn'd)  
The face of your opinions stands averse,  
All your Conclusions but one fire disperse;  
And every Line which carries your Designes,  
In the same Centre of Confusion joyns.  
Though then the Independents end the Work,  
'Tis known they took their Platform from the Kirk;  
Though Pilate Bradshaw with his pack of Jews  
God's High Vice-gerent at the Bar accuse,  
They but reviv'd the Evidence and Charge  
Your poy's'nous Declarations laid at large;  
Though they condemn'd or made his Life their Spoil,  
You were the Setters forc'd him to the Toil:  
For you whose fatal hand the Warrant writ,  
The Prisoner did for Execution fit.  
And if their Ax invade the Regal Throat,  
Remember you first murder'd Him by Vote.  
Thus They receive Your Tennis at the bound,  
Take off that Head which you had first Un-crown'd;  
Which shews the Texture of our Mischiefs Clew,

If ravel'd to the Top, begins in You,  
Who have forever stain'd the brave Intent  
And Credit of our English Parliaments:  
And in this One caus'd greater Ills, and more,  
Than all of theirs did Good that went before.  
Yet have you kept your word against Your will,  
Your King is Great indeed and Glorious still,  
And you have made Him so. We must impute  
That Lustre which His Sufferings contribute  
To your preposterous Wisdoms, who have done  
All your good Deeds by Contradiction:  
For as to work His Peace you rais'd this Strife,  
And often Shot at Him to Save His Life;  
As you took from Him to Encrease His wealth,  
And kept Him Pris'ner to secure His Health:  
So in revenge of your dissembled Spight,  
In this last Wrong you did Him greatest Right,  
And (cross to all you meant) by Plucking down  
Lifted Him up to His Eternal Crown.  
With This encircled in that radiant Sphear,  
Where Thy black Murtherers must ne'r appear,  
Thou from th'enthroned Martyrs Blood-stain'd Line,  
Dost in thy Vertues bright Example shine.  
And when Thy darted Beam from the moist Sky  
Nightly salutes Thy grieving Peoples Eye,  
Thou like some Warning Light rais'd by our fears,  
Shalt both provoke and still supply our Tears:  
Til the Great Prophet wak'd from his long sleep  
Again bids Sion for Josiah weep:  
That all Successions by a firm Decree  
May teach Their Children to lament for Thee.  
Beyond these mournful Rites there is no Art  
Or Cost can Thee preserve. Thy better Part  
Lives in despite of Death, and will endure  
Kept safe in Thy unpattern'd Portraicture:  
Which though in Paper drawn by thine own Hand,  
Shall longer than Corinthian-Marble stand,  
Or Iron Sculptures: There Thy matchlesse Pen  
Speaks Thee the Best of Kings as Best of Men:  
Be this Thy Epitaph: for This alone  
Deserves to carry Thy Inscription.  
And 'tis but modest Truth: so may I thrive)

As not to please the Best of Thine Alive,  
Of flatter my dead Master, here would I  
Pay my last Duty in a Glorious Ly)  
In that Admired Piece the world may read  
Thy Vertues and Misfortunes Storied;  
Which bear such curious Mixture, men must doubt  
Whether Thou Wiser wert or more Devout.  
There live Blest Relick of a Saint-like mind,  
With Honors endlesse, as Thy Peace Enshrin'd.  
Whilst we, divided by that Bloody Clowd,  
Whose purple Mists Thy Murther'd Body shrowd,  
Here stay behind at gaze: Apt for Thy sake  
Unruly murmurs now 'gainst Heav'n to make,  
Which binds us to Live well, yet gives no Fense  
To guard her dearest Sons from Violence.  
But He whose Trump proclaims, Revenge is Mine,  
Bids us our Sorrow by our Hope confine,  
And reconcile our Reason to our Faith,  
Which in Thy Ruine such Concussions hath,  
It dares Conclude, God does not keep His Word  
If Zimri die in Peace that slew his Lord.

From my sad Retirement March 11. 1648. CarolVs stVart reX angLIæ seCVre  
CoesVs VIta CessIt trICessIMo IanVarII.

Henry King

# An Elegy Upon The Most Victorious King Of Sweden Gustavus Adolphus

Like a cold fatal sweat which ushers death  
My thoughts hang on me, & my lab'ring breath  
Stopt up with sighs, my fancie big with woes,  
Feels two twinn'd mountains struggle in her throws,  
Of boundless sorrow one, t'other of sin;  
For less let no one rate it to begin  
Where honour ends. In Great Gustavus flame  
That style burnt out, and wasted to a name,  
Does barely live with us. As when the stuff  
That fed it failes, the Taper turns to snuff.  
With this poor snuff, this ayerie shadow, we  
Of Fame and Honour must contented be;  
Since from the vain grasp of our wishes fled  
Their glorious substance is, now He is dead.  
Speak it again, and louder, louder yet;  
Else whil'st we hear the sound we shall forget  
What it delivers. Let hoarse rumor cry  
Till she so many ecchoes multiply,  
Those may like num'rous witnesses confute  
Our unbelieving soules, that would dispute  
And doubt this truth for ever. This one way  
Is left our incredulity to sway;  
To waken our deaf sense, and make our ears  
As open and dilated as our fears;  
That we may feel the blow, and feeling grieve,  
At what we would not feign, but must believe.  
And in that horrid faith behold the world  
From her proud height of expectation hurl'd,  
Stooping with him, as if she strove to have  
No lower Center now then Swedens grave.  
O could not all thy purchas'd victories  
Like to thy Fame thy Flesh immortalize?  
Were not thy vertue nor thy valour charmes  
To guard thy body from those outward harmes  
Which could not reach thy soul? could not thy spirit  
Lend somewhat which thy frailty might inherit  
From thy diviner part, that Death nor Hate

Nor envy's bullets ere could penetrate?  
Could not thy early Trophies in stern fight  
Torn from the Dane, the Pole, the Moscovite?  
Which were thy triumphs seeds, as pledges sown,  
That when thy honours harvest was ripe grown,  
With full-summ'd wing thou Falcon-like wouldst fly  
And cuff the Eagle in the German sky:  
Forcing his iron beak and feathers feel  
They were not proof 'gainst thy victorious steel.  
Could not all these protect thee? or prevaile  
To fright that Coward Death, who oft grew pale  
To look thee and thy battails in the face?  
Alas they could not: Destiny gives place  
To none; nor is it seen that Princes lives  
Can saved be by their prerogatives.  
No more was thine; who clos'd in thy cold lead,  
Dost from thy self a mournful lecture read  
Of Mans short-dated glory: learn you Kings,  
You are like him but penetrable things;  
Though you from Demi-Gods derive your birth,  
You are at best but honourable earth:  
And howere sifted from that courser bran  
Which does compound and knead the common man,  
Nothing's immortal or from earth refin'd  
About you, but your Office and your Mind.  
Here then break your false Glasses, which present  
You greater then your Maker ever meant:  
Make truth your Mirrour now, since you find all  
That flatter you confuted by his fall.  
Yet since it was decreed thy lifes bright Sun  
Must be eclips'd ere thy full course was run,  
Be proud thou didst in thy black Obsequies  
With greater glory set then others rise.  
For in thy death, as life, thou heldest one  
Most just and regular proportion.  
Look how the Circles drawn by Compass meet  
Indivisibly joyned head to feet,  
And by continued points which them unite  
Grow at once Circular and Infinite:  
So did thy Fate and honour now contend  
To match thy brave beginning with thy end.  
Therefore thou hadst instead of Passing bells

The Drums and Cannons thunder for thy knells;  
And in the Field thou did'st triumphing dy,  
Closing thy eye-lids with a victory:  
That so by thousands who there lost their breath  
King-like thou might'st be waited on in death.  
Liv'd Plutarch now, and would of Cæsar tell,  
He could make none but Thee his parallel;  
Whose tide of glory swelling to the brim  
Needs borrow no addition from Him.  
When did great Julius in any Clime  
Atchieve so much and in so small a time?  
Or if he did, yet shalt Thou in that land  
Single for him and unexampled stand.  
When ore the Germans first his Eagle towr'd  
What saw the Legions which on them he pour'd?  
But massie bodies, made their swords to try  
Subjects not for his fight, but slavery.  
In that so vast expanded peece of ground  
(Now Swedens Theater and Tom he found  
Nothing worth Cæsars valour, or his fear,  
No conqu'ring Army, nor a Tilley there,  
Whose strength nor wiles, nor practice in the warre  
Might the fierce Torrent of thy triumphs barre,  
But that thy winged sword twice made him yield,  
Both from his trenches beat, and from the field.  
Besides the Romane thought he had done much  
Did he the bank of Rhenus onely touch.  
But though his march was bounded by the Rhine  
Not Oder nor the Danube Thee confine;  
And but thy frailty did thy fame prevent,  
Thou hadst thy conquests strecht to such extent,  
Thou might'st Vienna reach, and after span  
From Mulda to the Baltick Ocean.  
But death hath spann'd thee: nor must we divine  
What heir thou leav'st to finish thy design,  
Or who shall thee succeed as Champion  
For liberty and for religion.  
Thy task is done; as in a Watch the spring  
Wound to the height, relaxes with the string:  
So thy steel nerves of conquest, from their steep  
Ascent declin'd, lie slackt in thy last sleep.  
Rest then triumphant soul! for ever rest!

And, like the Phœnix in her spicy nest,  
Embalm'd with thine own merit, upward fly,  
Born in a cloud of perfume to the sky.  
Whil'st, as in deathless Urnes, each noble mind  
Treasures thy ashes which are left behind.  
And if perhaps no Cassiopeian spark  
(Which in the North did thy first rising mark)  
Shine ore thy Herse: the breath of our just praise  
Shall to the Firmament thy vertues raise;  
Then fix, and kindle them into a Starre,  
Whose influence may crown thy glorious warre.

---O Famâ ingens ingentior armis  
Rex Gustave, quibus Cœlo te laudibus æquem?  
Virgil. Æneid. lib. 2.

Henry King

# An Epitaph On His Most Honoured Friend Richard Earl Of Dorset

Let no profane ignoble foot tread neer  
This hallow'd peece of earth, Dorset lies here.  
A small sad relique of a noble spirit,  
Free as the air, and ample as his merit;  
Whose least perfection was large, and great  
Enough to make a common man compleat.  
A soul refin'd and cull'd from many men,  
That reconcil'd the sword unto the pen,  
Using both well. No proud forgetting Lord,  
But mindful of mean names and of his word.  
One that did love for honour, not for ends,  
And had the noblest way of making friends  
By loving first. One that did know the Court,  
Yet understood it better by report  
Then practice, for he nothing took from thence  
But the kings favour for his recompence.  
One for religion, or his countreys good  
That valu'd not his Fortune nor his blood.  
One high in fair opinion, rich in praise;  
And full of all we could have wisht, but dayes.  
He that is warn'd of this, and shall forbear  
To vent a sigh for him, or lend a tear;  
May he live long and scorn'd, unpiti'd fall,  
And want a mourner at his funerall.

Henry King

# An Epitaph On Niobe Turned To Stone

This Pile thou seest built out of Flesh, not Stone,  
Contains no shroud within, nor mouldring bone:  
This bloodless Trunk is destitute of Tombe  
Which may the Soul-fled Mansion enwombe.  
This seeming Sepulchre (to tell the troth)  
Is neither Tomb nor Body, and yet both.

Henry King

# An Essay On Death And A Prison

A prison is in all things like a grave,  
Where we no better priviledges have  
Then dead men, nor so good. The soul once fled  
Lives freer now, then when she was cloystered  
In walls of flesh; and though she organs want  
To act her swift designs, yet all will grant  
Her faculties more clear, now separate,  
Then if the same conjunction, which of late  
Did marry her to earth, had stood in force,  
Uncapable of death, or of divorce:  
But an imprison'd mind, though living, dies,  
And at one time feels two captivities;  
A narrow dungeon which her body holds,  
But narrower body which her self enfolds.  
Whil'st I in prison ly, nothing is free,  
Nothing enlarg'd but thought and miserie;  
Though e'ry chink be stopt, the doors close barr'd,  
Despight of walls and locks, through e'ry ward  
These have their issues forth; may take the aire,  
Though not for health, but onely to compare  
How wretched those men are who freedom want,  
By such as never suffer'd a restraint.  
In which unquiet travel could I find  
Ought that might settle my distemper'd mind,  
Or of some comfort make discovery  
It were a voyage well imploy'd: but I,  
Like our raw travellers that cross the seas  
To fetch home fashions or some worse disease,  
Instead of quiet a new torture bring  
Home t'afflict me, malice and murmuring.  
What is't I envy not? no dog nor fly  
But my desires prefer, and wish were I;  
For they are free, or if they were like me,  
They had no sense to know calamitie.  
But in the grave no sparks of envy live,  
No hot comparisons that causes give  
Of quarrel, or that our affections move  
Any condition, save their own, to love.  
There are no objects there but shades and night,

And yet that darkness better than the light.  
There lives a silent harmony, no jar  
Or discord can that sweet soft consort mar.  
The graves deaf ear is clos'd against all noise  
Save that which rocks must hear, the angels voice:  
Whose trump shall wake the world, and raise up men  
Who in earths bosom slept, bed-rid till then.  
What man then would, who on deaths pillow slumbers,  
Be re-inspir'd with life, though golden numbers  
Of bliss were pour'd into his breast; though he  
Were sure in change to gain a Monarchie?  
A Monarchs glorious state compar'd with his,  
Less safe, less free, less firm, less quiet is.  
For nere was any Prince advanc't so high  
That he was out of reach of misery:  
Never did story yet a law report  
To banish fate or sorrow from his Court;  
Where ere he moves by land, or through the Main,  
These go along sworn members of his train.  
But he whom the kind earth hath entertain'd,  
Hath in her womb a sanctuary gain'd,  
Whose charter and protection arm him so,  
That he is priviledg'd from future woe.  
The Coffin's a safe harbour, where he rides  
Land-bound, below cross windes, or churlish tides.  
For grief, sprung up with life, was mans half-brother  
Fed by the taste, brought forth by sin, the mother.  
And since the first seduction of the wife,  
God did decree to grief a lease for life;  
Which Patent in full force continue must,  
Till man that disobey'd revert to dust.  
So that lifes sorrows ratifi'd by God  
Cannot expire, or find their period,  
Until the soul and body disunite,  
And by two diff'rent wayes from each take flight.  
But they dissolved once our woes disband,  
Th' assurance cancell'd by one fatall hand;  
Soon as the passing bell proclaims me dead,  
My sorrows sink with me, lye buried  
In the same heap of dust, the self-same Urn  
Doth them and me alike to nothing turn.  
If then of these I might election make

Whether I would refuse, and whether take,  
Rather then like a sullen Anchorite  
I would live cas'd in stone, and learn to write  
A Prisoners story, which might steal some tears  
From the sad eyes of him that reads or hears;  
Give me a peaceful death, and let me meet  
My freedom seal'd up in my winding sheet.  
Death is the pledge of rest, and with one bayl  
Two Prisons quits, the Body and the Jayl.

Henry King

## Another Of The Same, Paraphrased For An Antheme

Out of the horreur of the lowest Deep,  
Where cares & endlesse fears their station keep,  
To thee (O Lord) I send my woful cry:  
O heare the accents of my misery.  
If Thy enquiry (Lord) should be severe,  
To mark all sins which have been acted here,  
Who may abide? or, when they fisted are,  
Stand un-condemned at Thy Judgments bar?  
But there is mercy (O my God) with Thee,  
That Thou by it may'st lou'd, and feared be.  
My Soule waites for the Lord, in Him I trust,  
Whose word is faithful, & whose promise just.  
On him my longing thoughts are fixt, as they,  
Who wait the c&#333;forts of the rising day:  
Yea more then those that watch the morning light  
Tir'd with the sorrowes of a rest-less night.  
O Israel, trust in that Gracious Lord,  
Who plentiful remission doth afford;  
And will His people, who past pardon seeme,  
By mercyes greater then their sins redeeme.

Henry King

## Athe Anniverse. An Elegy.

So soon grown old! hast thou been six years dead?  
Poor earth, once by my Love inhabited!  
And must I live to calculate the time  
To which thy blooming youth could never climbe,  
But fell in the ascent! yet have not I  
Studi'd enough thy losses history.  
How happy were mankind if Death's strict lawes  
Consum'd our lamentations like the cause!  
Or that our grief turning to dust might end  
With the dissolved body of a friend!  
But sacred Heaven! O how just thou art  
In stamping deaths impression on that heart  
Which through thy favours would grow insolent,  
Were it not physick't by sharp discontent.  
If then it stand resolv'd in thy decree  
That still I must doom'd to a Desart be  
Sprung out of my lone thoughts, which know no path  
But what my own misfortune beaten hath:  
If thou wilt bind me living to a coarse,  
And I must slowly waste; I then of force  
Stoop to thy great appointment, and obey  
That will which nought avail me to gainsay.  
For whil'st in sorrowes Maze I wander on,  
I do but follow lifes vocation.  
Sure we were made to grieve: at our first birth  
With cries we took possession of the earth;  
And though the lucky man reputed be  
Fortunes adopted son, yet onely he  
Is Natures true born child, who summes his years  
(Like me) with no Arithmetick but tears.

Henry King

# Being Waked Out Of My Sleep By A Snuff Of Candle Which Offended Me, I Thus Thought

Perhaps 'twas but conceit. Erroneous sence!  
Thou art thine own distemper and offence.  
Imagine then, that sick unwholsom steam  
Was thy corruption breath'd into a dream.  
Nor is it strange, when we in charnells dwell,  
That all our thoughts of earth and frailty smell.  
Man is a Candle, whose unhappy light  
Burns in the day, and smothers in the night.  
And as you see the dying taper waste,  
By such degrees does he to darkness haste.  
Here is the diff'rence: When our bodies lamps  
Blinded by age, or choakt with mortall damp,  
Now faint and dim and sickly 'gin to wink,  
And in their hollow sockets lowly sink;  
When all our vital fires ceasing to burn,  
Leave nought but snuff and ashes in our Urn:  
God will restore those fallen lights again,  
And kindle them to an Eternal flame.

Henry King

# By Occasion Of The Young Prince His Happy Birth

At this glad Triumph, when most Poets use  
Their quill, I did not bridle up my Muse  
For sloth or less devotion. I am one  
That can well keep my Holy-dayes at home;  
That can the blessings of my King and State  
Better in pray'r then poems gratulate;  
And in their fortunes bear a loyal part,  
Though I no bone-fires light but in my heart.  
Truth is, when I receiv'd the first report  
Of a new Starre risen and seen at Court;  
Though I felt joy enough to give a tongue  
Unto a mute, yet duty strook me dumb:  
And thus surpriz'd by rumour, at first sight  
I held it some allegiance not to write.  
For howere Children, unto those that look  
Their pedigree in God's, not the Church book,  
Fair pledges are of that eternitie  
Which Christians possess not till they die;  
Yet they appear view'd in that perspective  
Through which we look on men long since alive,  
Like succours in a Camp, sent to make good  
Their place that last upon the watches stood.  
So that in age, or fate, each following birth  
Doth set the Parent so much neerer earth:  
And by this Grammar we our heirs may call  
The smiling Preface to our funerall.  
This sadded my soft sense, to think that he  
Who now makes Lawes, should by a bold decree  
Be summon'd hence to make another room,  
And change his Royal Palace for a tomb.  
For none ere truly lov'd the present light,  
But griev'd to see it rivall'd by the night:  
And if't be sin to wish that light extinct,  
Sorrow may make it treason but to think't.  
I know each male-content or giddy man,  
In his religion with the Persian,  
Adores the rising Sun; and his false view  
Best likes not what is best, but what is new.  
O that we could these gangrenes so prevent

(For our own blessing and their punishment)  
That all such might, who for wild changes thirst,  
Rack't on a hopeless expectation, burst,  
To see us fetter time, and by his stay  
To a consistence fix the flying day;  
And in a Solstice by our prayers made,  
Rescue our Sun from death or envies shade.  
But here we dally with fate, and in this  
Stern Destiny mocks and controules our wish;  
Informing us, if fathers should remain  
For ever here, children were born in vain;  
And we in vain were Christians, should we  
In this world dream of perpetuitie.  
Decay is natures Kalendar; nor can  
It hurt the King to think he is a man;  
Nor grieve, but comfort him, to hear us say  
That his own children must his Scepter sway.  
Why slack I then to contribute a vote  
Large as the Kingdoms joy, free as my thought?  
Long live the Prince, and in that title bear  
The world long witness that the King is here:  
May he grow up till all that good he reach  
Which we can wish, or his Great Father teach:  
Let him shine long a mark to Land and Mayn,  
Like that bright Spark plac't neerest to Charles Wayn,  
And like him lead successions golden Teame,  
Which may possess the Brittish Diademe.  
But in the mean space, let his Royal Sire,  
Who warmes our hopes with true Promethean fire,  
So long his course in time and glory run,  
Till he estate his vertue on his son.  
So in his Fathers dayes this happy One  
Shall crowned be, yet not usurp the Throne;  
And Charles reign still, since thus himself will be  
Heir to himself through all Posteritie.

Henry King

# Loves Harvest

Fond Lunatick forbear, why do'st thou sue  
For thy affections pay e're it is due?  
Loves fruits are legal use; and therefore may  
Be onely taken on the marriage day.  
Who for this interest too early call,  
By that exaction lose the Principall.  
Then gather not those immature delights,  
Untill their riper Autumn thee invites.  
He that abortive Corn cuts off his ground,  
No Husband but a Ravisher is found:  
So those that reap their love before they wed,  
Do in effect but Cuckold their own Bed.

Henry King

# Madam Gabrina, Or The Ill-Favour'd Choice

Con mala Muger el remedio  
Mucha Tierra por el medio.

I have oft wondred why thou didst elect  
Thy Mistress of a stuff none could affect,  
That wore his eyes in the right place. A thing  
Made up, when Natures powers lay slumbering.  
One, where all pregnant imperfections met  
To make her sexes scandal: Teeth of jet,  
Hair dy'd in Orpment, from whose fretful hew  
Canidia her highest Witch-crafts drew.  
A lip most thin and pale, but such a mouth  
Which like the Poles is stretched North and South.  
A face so colour'd, and of such a form,  
As might defiance bid unto a storm:  
And the complexion of her sallow hide  
Like a wrack't body washt up by the Tyde:  
Eyes small: a nose so to her vizard glew'd  
As if 'twould take a Planets altitude.  
Last for her breath, 'tis somewhat like the smell  
That does in Ember weeks on Fishstreet dwell;  
Or as a man should fasting scent the Rose  
Which in the savoury Bear-garden growes.  
If a Fox cures the Paralyticall,  
Had'st thou ten Palsies, she'd out-stink them all.  
But I have found thy plot: sure thou did'st trie  
To put thy self past hope of jealousy:  
And whil'st unlearned fools the senses please,  
Thou cur'st thy appetite by a disease;  
As many use to kill an itch withall,  
Quicksilver or some biting Minerall.  
Dote upon handsome things each common man  
With little study and less labour can;  
But to make love to a Deformity,  
Onely commends thy great ability,  
Who from hard-favour'd objects draw'st content,  
As Estriches from iron nutriment.  
Well take her, and like mounted George, in bed  
Boldly archieve thy Dragons Maiden-head:

Where (though scarce sleep) thou mayst rest confident  
None dares beguile thee of thy punishment:  
The sin were not more foul he should commit,  
Then is that She with whom he acted it.  
Yet take this comfort: when old age shall raze,  
Or sickness ruine many a good face,  
Thy choice cannot impair; no cunning curse  
Can mend that night-peece, that is, make her worse.

Henry King

# My Midnight Meditation

Ill busi'd man! why should'st thou take such care  
To lengthen out thy life's short calendar?  
When ev'ry spectacle thou lookst upon  
Presents and acts thy execution.  
Each drooping season and each flower doth cry,  
'Fool! as I fade and wither, thou must die.

'The beating of thy pulse (when thou art well)  
Is just the tolling of thy Passing Bell:  
Night is thy Hearse, whose sable Canopy  
Covers alike deceased day and thee.  
And all those weeping dews which nightly fall,  
Are but the tears shed for thy funeral.'

Henry King

# On The Earl Of Essex

Essex twice made unhappy by a Wife,  
Yet Marry'd worse unto the Peoples strife:  
He who by two Divorces did untie  
His Bond of Wedlock and of Loyalty:  
Who was by Easiness of Nature bred,  
To lead that Tumult which first Him misled;  
Yet had some glimm'ring Sparks of Virtue lent  
To see (though late) his Errour, and Repent:  
Essex lies here, like an inverted Flame,  
Hid in the Ruins of his House and Name;  
And as He, frailties sad Example, lies,  
Warns the Survivours in his Exequies.  
He shews what wretched bubbles Great Men are,  
Through their Ambition grown too Popular:  
For they Built up, from weak Opinion, stand  
On Bases false as Water, loose as Sand;  
Essex in differing Successes try'd  
The fury and the falshood of each Side;  
Now with applauses Deify'd, and then  
Thrown down with spightfull infamy agen:  
Tells them, what Arts soever them support,  
Their Life is meerly Time and Fortunes sport,  
And that no Bladders blown by Common breath,  
Shall bear them up amidst the Waves of Death:  
Tells them no Monstrous Birth, with Pow'r endu'd  
By that more Monstrous Beast the Multitude;  
No State-Coloss (though Tall as that bestrid  
The Rhodian Harbour where their Navy rid)  
Can hold that ill-porportion'd Greatness still,  
Beyond his Greater, most Resistless will,  
Whose dreadfull Sentence written on the Wall  
Did sign the Temple Robbing Tyrants fall;  
But Spight of their vast Priviledge, which strives  
T'exceed the Size of ten Prerogatives;  
Spight of their Endless Parliament, or Grants,  
(In Order to those Votes and Covenants,  
When, without Sense of their black Perjury  
They Swear with Essex they would Live and Dye)  
With their Dead General ere long they must

Contracted be into a Span of Dust.

Henry King

# On Two Children Dying Of One Disease, And Buried In One Grave

Brought forth in sorrow, and bred up in care,  
Two tender Children here entombed are:  
One Place, one Sire, one Womb their being gave,  
They had one mortal sickness, and one grave.  
And though they cannot number many years  
In their Account, yet with their Parents tears  
This comfort mingles; Though their dayes were few  
They scarcely sinne, but never sorrow knew:  
So that they well might boast, they carry'd hence  
What riper ages lose, their innocence.  
You pretty losses, that revive the fate  
Which in your mother death did antedate,  
O let my high-swol'n grief distill on you  
The saddest drops of a Parentall dew:  
You ask no other dower then what my eyes  
Lay out on your untimely exequies:  
When once I have discharg'd that mournfull skore,  
Heav'n hath decreed you ne're shall cost me more,  
Since you release and quit my borrow'd trust,  
By taking this inheritance of dust.

Henry King

## Paradox. That Fruition Destroyes Love

Love is our Reasons Paradox, which still  
Against the judgment doth maintain the Will:  
And governs by such arbitrary laws,  
It onely makes the Act our Likings cause:  
We have no brave revenge, but to forgo  
Our full desires, and starve the Tyrant so.  
They whom the rising blood tempts not to taste,  
Preserve a stock of Love can never waste;  
When easie people who their wish enjoy,  
Like Prodigalls at once their wealth destroy.  
Adam till now had stayd in Paradise  
Had his desires been bounded by his eyes.  
When he did more then look, that made th' offence,  
And forfeited his state of innocence.  
Fruition therefore is the bane t'undoe  
Both our affection and the subject too.  
'Tis Love into worse language to translate,  
And make it into Lust degenerate:  
'Tis to De-throne, and thrust it from the heart,  
To seat it grossely in the sensual part.  
Seek for the Starre that's shot upon the ground,  
And nought but a dimme gelly there is found.  
Thus foul and dark our female starres appear,  
If fall'n or loosned once from Vertues Sphear.  
Glow-worms shine onely look't on, and let ly,  
But handled crawl into deformity:  
So beauty is no longer fair and bright,  
Then whil'st unstained by the appetite:  
And then it withers like a blasted flowre  
Some poys'nous worm or spider hath crept ore.  
Pigmaleon's dotage on the carved stone,  
Shews Amorists their strong illusion.  
Whil'st he to gaze and court it was content,  
He serv'd as Priest at beauties Monument:  
But when by looser fires t'embraces led,  
It prov'd a cold hard Statue in his bed.  
Irregular affects, like mad mens dreams  
Presented by false lights and broken beams,  
So long content us, as no neer address

Shews the weak sense our painted happiness.  
But when those pleasing shaddowes us forsake,  
Or of the substance we a trial make,  
Like him, deluded by the fancies mock,  
We ship-wrack 'gainst an Alabaster rock.  
What though thy Mistress far from Marble be?  
Her softness will transform and harden thee.  
Lust is a Snake, and Guilt the Gorgons head,  
Which Conscience turns to Stone, & Joyes to Lead.  
Turtles themselves will blush, if put to name  
The Act, whereby they quench their am'rous flame.  
Who then that's wise or vertuous, would not feare  
To catch at pleasures which forbidden were,  
When those which we count lawful, cannot be  
Requir'd without some loss of modestie?  
Ev'n in the Marriage-Bed, where soft delights  
Are customary and authoriz'd Rites;  
What are those tributes to the wanton fense,  
But toleration of Incontinence?  
For properly you cannot call that Love  
Which does not from the Soul, but Humour move.  
Thus they who worship't Pan or Isis Shrine,  
By the fair Front judg'd all within Divine:  
Though entring, found 'twas but a Goat or Cow  
To which before their ignorance did bow.  
Such Temples and such Goddesses are these  
Which foolish Lovers and admirers please:  
Who if they chance within the Shrine to prie,  
Find that a beast they thought a Deity.  
Nor makes it onely our opinion less  
Of what we lik't before, and now possess;  
But robs the Fuel, and corrupts the Spice  
Which sweetens and inflames Loves sacrifice.  
After Fruition once, what is Desire  
But ashes kept warm by a dying fire?  
This is (if any) the Philosophers Stone,  
Which still miscarries at Projection.  
For when the Heat ad Octo intermits,  
It poorly takes us like Third Ague fits;  
Or must on Embers as dull Druggs infuse,  
Which we for Med'cine not for Pleasure use.  
Since Lovers joyes then leave so sick a taste,

And soon as relish'd by the Sense are past;  
They are but Riddles sure, lost if possest,  
And therefore onely in Reversion best.  
For bate them Expectation and Delay,  
You take the most delightful Scenes away.  
These two such rule within the fancie keep,  
As banquets apprehended in our sleep;  
After which pleasing trance next morn we wake  
Empty and angry at the nights mistake.  
Give me long Dreams and Visions of content,  
Rather then pleasures in a minute spent.  
And since I know before, the shedding Rose  
In that same instant doth her sweetness lose,  
Upon the Virgin-stock still let her dwell  
For me, to feast my longings with her smell.  
Those are but counterfeits of joy at best,  
Which languish soon as brought unto the test.  
Nor can I hold it worth his pains who tries  
To Inne that Harvest which by reaping dies.  
Resolve me now what spirit hath delight,  
If by full feed you kill the appetite?  
That stomack healthy'st is, that nere was cloy'd,  
Why not that Love the best then, nere enjoy'd?  
Since nat'rally the blood, when tam'd or sated,  
Will cool so fast it leaves the object hated.  
Pleasures like wonders quickly lose their price  
When Reason or Experience makes us wise.  
To close my argument then. I dare say  
(And without Paradox) as well we may  
Enjoy our Love and yet preserve Desire,  
As warm our hands by putting out the fire.

Henry King

# Paradox. That It Is Best For A Young Maid To Marry An Old Man

Fair one, why cannot you an old man love?  
He may as useful, and more constant prove.  
Experience shews you that maturer years  
Are a security against those fears  
Youth will expose you to; whose wild desire  
As it is hot, so 'tis as rash as fire.  
Mark how the blaze extinct in ashes lies,  
Leaving no brand nor embers when it dies  
Which might the flame renew: thus soon consumes  
Youths wandring heat, and vanishes in fumes.  
When ages riper love unapt to stray  
Through loose and giddy change of objects, may  
In your warm bosom like a cynder lie,  
Quickned and kindled by your sparkling eie.  
Tis not deni'd, there are extremes in both  
Which may the fancie move to like or loath:  
Yet of the two you better shall endure  
To marry with the Cramp then Calenture.  
Who would in wisdom choose the Torrid Zone  
Therein to settle a Plantation?  
Merchants can tell you, those hot Climes were made  
But at the longest for a three years trade:  
And though the Indies cast the sweeter smell,  
Yet health and plenty do more Northward dwell;  
For where the raging Sun-beams burn the earth,  
Her scorched mantle withers into dearth;  
Yet when that drought becomes the Harvests curse,  
Snow doth the tender Corn most kindly nurse:  
Why now then woe you not some snowy head  
To take you in meer pitty to his bed?  
I doubt the harder task were to perswade  
Him to love you: for if what I have said  
In Virgins as in Vegetals holds true,  
Hee'll prove the better Nurse to cherish you.  
Some men we know renown'd for wisdom grown  
By old records and antique Medalls shown;  
Why ought not women then be held most wise

Who can produce living antiquities?  
Besides if care of that main happiness  
Your sex triumphs in, doth your thoughts possess,  
I mean your beauty from decay to keep;  
No wash nor mask is like an old mans sleep.  
Young wives need never to be Sun-burnt fear,  
Who their old husbands for Umbrellaes wear:  
How russet looks an Orchard on the hill  
To one that's water'd by some neighb'ring Drill?  
Are not the floated Medowes ever seen  
To flourish soonest, and hold longest green?  
You may be sure no moist'ning lacks that Bride,  
Who lies with Winter thawing by her side.  
She should be fruitful too as fields that joyne  
Unto the melting waste of Appenine.  
Whil'st the cold morning-drops bedew the Rose,  
It doth nor leaf, nor smell, nor colour lose;  
Then doubt not Sweet! Age hath supplies of wet  
To keep You like that flowr in water set.  
Dripping Catarrhs and Fontinells are things  
Will make You think You grew betwixt two Springs.  
And should You not think so, You scarce allow  
The force or Merit of Your Marriage-Vow;  
Where Maids a new Creed learn, & must from thence  
Believe against their own or others sence.  
Else Love will nothing differ from neglect,  
Which turns not to a vertue each defect.  
Ile say no more but this; you women make  
Your Childrens reck'ning by the Almanake.  
I like it well, so you contented are,  
To choose their Fathers by that Kalendar.  
Turn then old Erra Pater, and there see  
According to lifes posture and degree,  
What age or what complexion is most fit  
To make an English Maid happy by it;  
And You shall find, if You will choose a man,  
Set justly for Your own Meridian,  
Though You perhaps let One and Twenty woo,  
Your elevation is for Fifty Two.

Henry King

## Psalm Cl.

Praise ye the Lord, your Songs address  
To praise His Holynes:  
O praise Him in His pow'rs extent,  
Who rules the firmament.  
Praise Him for all His acts of might,  
Our wonder which invite:  
In praises due His greatness tell,  
Which all things doth excell.  
Praise Him with Trumpets lofty sound,  
With Cornets shake the ground:  
His praise the Psaltery inspire,  
With the melodious Lyre.  
Praise him with Timbrells, and advance  
His honour in the Dance.  
Praise Him with Organs, Violls, Flutes,  
And the well-stringed Lutes.  
With Cymbals loud Him magnify,  
Praise Him on Cymbals high:  
Let every creature, that hath breath,  
His Maker praise till death.

Henry King

## Psalm Cxvii.

O all ye Nations record,  
The Praises of the Lord;  
Ye people through the Universe,  
Your Makers praise rehearse.  
For He to us great kindness shewes,  
And Mercies large bestowes.  
His constant Truth no time decaies:  
The Lord for ever praise.

Henry King

# Psalm I.

The man is blest whose feet not tread,  
By wicked counsailes led:  
Nor stands in that perverted way,  
In which the Sinners stray;  
Nor joynes himselfe unto the chaire,  
Where Scorners seated are;  
But in God's Law both dayes and nights  
To meditate delights.  
He shall be like a Planted Tree  
We neere the Rivers see:  
Whose branches by their moisture spring,  
And fruits in season bring.  
No parching droughts his leaf invade,  
Or make his blossome fade.  
For God will his indeavours blesse  
With prosperous successe.  
But wicked men themselves shall find  
Like chaff blow'n by the wind.  
Nor in the finall Judgment must  
Stand up among the Just.  
For God the righteous guides, and knowes  
The path wherein he goes:  
When wayes of Sinners perish shall  
In their eternall fall.

Henry King

## Sic Vita

Like to the falling of a star,  
Or as the flights of eagles are,  
Or like the fresh spring's gaudy hue,  
Or silver drops of morning dew,  
Or like a wind that chafes the flood,  
Or bubbles which on water stood:  
Even such is man, whose borrowed light  
Is straight called in, and paid to night.  
The wind blows out, the bubble dies;  
The spring entombed in autumn lies;  
The dew dries up, the star is shot;  
The flight is past, and man forgot.

Henry King

## Silence. A Sonnet

Peace my hearts blab, be ever dumb,  
Sorrowes speak loud without a tongue:  
And my perplexed thoughts forbear  
To breath your selves in any ear:  
Tis scarce a true or manly grief  
Which gaddes abroad to find relief.  
Was ever stomack that lackt meat  
Nourisht by what another eat?  
Can I bestow it, or will woe  
Forsake me when I bid it goe?  
Then Ile believe a wounded breast  
May heal by shrift, and purchase rest.  
But if imparting it I do  
Not ease my self, but trouble two,  
'Tis better I alone possess  
My treasure of unhappiness:  
Engrossing that which is my own  
No longer then it is unknown.  
If silence be a kind of death,  
He kindles grief who gives it breath;  
But let it rak't in embers lye,  
On thine own hearth 'twill quickly dye;  
And spight of fate, that very wombe  
Which carries it, shall prove its tombe.

Henry King

## Sonnet. The Double Rock

Since thou hast view'd some Gorgon, and art grown  
A solid stone:  
To bring again to softness thy hard heart  
Is past my art.  
Ice may relent to water in a thaw;  
But stone made flesh Loves Chymistry ne're saw.  
Therefore by thinking on thy hardness, I  
Will petrify;  
And so within our double Quarryes Wombe,  
Dig our Loves Tombe.  
Thus strangely will our difference agree;  
And, with our selves, amaze the world, to see  
How both Revenge and Sympathy consent  
To make two Rocks each others Monument.

Henry King

## Sonnet. Dry Those Fair, Those Chrystal Eyes

Dry those fair, those chrystal eyes  
Which like growing fountains rise  
To drown their banks. Griefs sullen brooks  
Would better flow in furrow'd looks.  
Thy lovely face was never meant  
To be the shoar of discontent.  
Then clear those watrish starres again  
Which else portend a lasting rain;  
Lest the clouds which settle there  
Prolong my Winter all the Year:  
And the example others make  
In love with sorrow for thy sake.

Henry King

## Sonnet. Go Thou That Vainly Do'st Mine Eyes Invite

Go thou that vainly do'st mine eyes invite  
To taste the softer comforts of the night,  
And bid'st me cool the fever of my brain,  
In those sweet balmy dewes which slumber pain;  
Enjoy thine own peace in untroubled sleep,  
Whil'st my sad thoughts eternal vigils keep.  
O could'st thou for a time change breasts with me,  
Thou in that broken Glass shouldst plainly see,  
A heart which wastes in the slow smothering fire  
Blown by despair, and fed by false desire,  
Can onely reap such sleeps as Sea-men have,  
When fierce winds rock them on the foaming wave.

Henry King

## Sonnet. I Prethee Turn That Face Away

I prethee turn that face away  
Whose splendour but benights my day.  
Sad eyes like mine, and wounded hearts  
Shun the bright rayes which beauty darts.  
Unwelcome is the Sun that pries  
Into those shades where sorrow lies.  
Go shine on happy things. To me  
That blessing is a miserie:  
Whom thy fierce Sun not warmes, but burnes,  
Like that the sooty Indian turnes.  
Ile serve the night, and there confin'd  
Wish thee less fair, or else more kind.

Henry King

## Sonnet. Tell Me You Stars That Our Affections Move

Tell me you stars that our affections move,  
Why made ye me that cruell one to love?  
Why burnes my heart her scorned sacrifice,  
Whose breast is hard as Chrystall, cold as Ice?  
God of Desire! if all thy Votaries  
Thou thus repay, succession will grow wise;  
No sighs for incense at thy Shrine shall smoke,  
Thy Rites will be despis'd, thy Altars broke.  
O! or give her my flame to melt that snow  
Which yet unthaw'd does on her bosome grow;  
Or make me ice, and with her chrystall chaines  
Binde up all love within my frozen veines:

Henry King

## Sonnet. To Patience

Down stormy passions, down; no more  
Let your rude waves invade the shore  
Where blushing reason sits and hides  
Her from the fury of your tides.  
Fit onely 'tis where you bear sway  
That Fools or Franticks do obey;  
Since judgment, if it not resists,  
Will lose it self in your blind mists.  
Fall easie Patience, fall like rest  
Whose soft spells charm a troubled breast:  
And where those Rebels you espy,  
O in your silken cordage tie  
Their malice up! so shall I raise  
Altars to thank your power, and praise  
The soveraign vertue of your Balm,  
Which cures a Tempest by a Calm.

Henry King

## Sonnet. Vvere Thy Heart Soft As Thou Art Faire

Vvere thy heart soft as thou art faire,  
Thou wer't a wonder past compare:  
But frozen Love and fierce disdain  
By their extremes thy graces stain.  
Cold coyness quenches the still fires  
Which glow in Lovers warm desires;  
And scorn, like the quick Lightnings blaze,  
Darts death against affections gaze.  
O Heavens, what prodigy is this  
When Love in Beauty buried is!  
Or that dead pity thus should be  
Tomb'd in a living cruelty.

Henry King

## Sonnet. When I Entreat, Either Thou Wilt Not Hear

When I entreat, either thou wilt not hear,  
Or else my suit arriving at thy ear  
Cools and dies there. A strange extremitie  
To freeze ith' Sun, and in the shade to frie.  
Whil'st all my blasted hopes decline so soon,  
Tis Evening with me, though at high Noon.  
For pity to thy self, if not to me  
Think time will ravish, what I lose, from thee.  
If my scorcht heart wither through thy delay,  
Thy beauty withers too. And swift decay  
Arrests thy Youth. So thou whil'st I am slighted  
Wilt be too soon with age or sorrow nighted.

Henry King

# St. Valentines Day

Now that each feather'd Chorister doth sing  
The glad approaches of the welcome Spring:  
Now Phœbus darts forth his more early beam,  
And dips it later in the curled stream,  
I should to custome prove a retrograde  
Did I still dote upon my sullen shade.  
Oft have the seasons finisht and begun;  
Dayes into Months, those into years have run,  
Since my cross Starres and inauspicious fate  
Doom'd me to linger here without my Mate:  
Whose loss ere since befrosting my desire,  
Left me an Altar without Gift or Fire.  
I therefore could have wisht for your own sake  
That Fortune had design'd a nobler stake  
For you to draw, then one whose fading day  
Like to a dedicated Taper lay  
Within a Tomb, and long burnt out in vain,  
Since nothing there saw better by the flame.  
Yet since you like your Chance, I must not try  
To marre it through my incapacity.  
I here make title to it, and proclaime  
How much you honour me to wear my name;  
Who can no form of gratitude devise,  
But offer up my self your sacrifice.  
Hail then my worthy Lot! and may each Morn  
Successive springs of joy to you be born:  
May your content ne're wane, untill my heart  
Grown Bankrupt, wants good wishes to impart.  
Henceforth I need not make the dust my Shrine,  
Nor search the Grave for my lost Valentine.

Henry King

# Tell Me No More How Fair She Is

TELL me no more how fair she is,  
I have no minde to hear  
The story of that distant bliss  
I never shall come near:  
By sad experience I have found  
That her perfection is my wound.

And tell me not how fond I am  
To tempt a daring Fate,  
From whence no triumph ever came,  
But to repent too late:  
There is some hope ere long I may  
In silence dote my self away.

I ask no pity (Love) from thee,  
Nor will thy justice blame,  
So that thou wilt not envy me  
The glory of my flame:  
Which crowns my heart when ere it dyes,  
In that it falls her sacrifice.

Henry King

# The Acquittance

Not knowing who should my Acquittance take,  
I know as little what discharge to make.  
The favour is so great, that it out-goes  
All forms of thankfulness I can propose,  
Those grateful levies which my pen would raise,  
Are stricken dumb, or bury'd in amaze.  
Therefore, as once in Athens there was shown  
An Altar built unto the God unknown,  
My ignorant devotions must by guess  
This blind return of gratitude address,  
Till You vouchsafe to shew me where and how  
I may to this revealed Goddess bow.

Henry King

# The Boyes Answer To The Blackmoor

Black Maid, complain not that I fly,  
When Fate commands Antipathy:  
Prodigious might that union prove,  
Where Night and Day together move,  
And the conjunction of our lips  
Not kisses make, but an Eclipse;  
In which the mixed black and white  
Portends more terrour than delight.  
Yet if my shadow thou wilt be,  
Enjoy thy dearest wish: But see  
Thou take my shadowes property,  
That hastes away when I come nigh:  
Else stay till death hath blinded mee,  
And then I will bequeath my self to thee.

Henry King

# The Change

Il sabio mude conseio: Il loco persevera.

We lov'd as friends now twenty years and more:  
Is't time or reason think you to give o're?  
When though two prentiships set Jacob free,  
I have not held my Rachel dear at three.  
Yet will I not your levitie accuse;  
Continuance sometimes is the worse abuse.  
In judgment I might rather hold it strange,  
If like the fleeting world, you did not change:  
Be it your wisdom therefore to retract,  
When perseverance oft is follies act.  
In pity I can think, that what you do  
Hath Justice in't, and some Religion too;  
For of all vertues Morall or Divine,  
We know but Love none must in Heaven shine:  
Well did you the presumption then foresee  
Of counterfeiting immortalitie:  
Since had you kept our loves too long alive,  
We might invade Heavens prerogative;  
Or in our progress, like the Jews, comprise  
The Legend of an earthly Paradise.  
Live happy and more prosperous in the next,  
You have discharg'd your old friend by the Text.  
Farewel fair Shadow of a female faith,  
And let this be our friendships Epitaph:  
Affection shares the frailty of our fate,  
When (like our selves) 'tis old and out of date:  
'Tis just all humane Loves their period have,  
When friends are frail and dropping to the grave:

Henry King

# The Defence

Piengan los Enamorados  
Que tienen los otros, los oios quebranta dos.

Why slightest thou what I approve?  
Thou art no Peer to try my love,  
Nor canst discern where her form lyes,  
Unless thou saw'st her with my eyes.  
Say she were foul and blacker than  
The Night, or Sun-burnt African,  
If lik't by me, tis I alone  
Can make a beauty where was none;  
For rated in my fancie, she  
Is so as she appears to me.  
But tis not feature, or a face,  
That does my free election grace,  
Nor is my liking onely led  
By a well temperd white and red;  
Could I enamour'd grow on those,  
The Lilly and the blushing Rose  
United in one stalk might be  
As dear unto my thoughts as she,  
But I look farther, and do find  
A richer beauty in her mind;  
Where something is so lasting fair,  
As time or age cannot impair.  
Had'st thou a perspective so cleere,  
Thou could'st behold my object there;  
When thou her vertues should'st espy,  
Theyl'd force thee to confess that I  
Had cause to like her, and learn thence  
To love by judgment not by sence.

Henry King

## The Departure. An Elegy.

Were I to leave no more than a good friend,  
Or but to hear the summons to my end,  
(Which I have long'd for) I could then with ease  
Attire my grief in words, and so appease  
That passion in my bosom, which outgrows  
The language of strict verse or largest prose.  
But here I am quite lost; writing to you  
All that I pen or think, is forc't and new.  
My faculties run cross, and prove as weak  
T'indite this melancholly task, as speak:  
Indeed all words are vaine well might I spare  
This rendring of my tortur'd thoughts in ayre,  
Or sighing paper. My infectious grief  
Strikes inward, and affords me no relief.  
But still a deeper wound, to lose a sight  
More lov'd then health, and dearer then the light.  
But all of us were not at the same time  
Brought forth, nor are we billited in one clime.  
Nature hath pitch't mankind at several rates,  
Making our places diverse as our fates.  
Unto that universal law I bow,  
Though with unwilling knee; and do allow  
Her cruell justice, which dispos'd us so  
That we must counter to our wishes go.  
'Twas part of mans first curse, which order'd well  
We should not alway with our likings dwell.  
'Tis onely the Triumphant Church where we  
Shall in unsever'd Neighbourhood agree.  
Go then best soul, and where You must appear  
Restore the Day to that dull Hemisphear.  
Nere may the hapless Night You leave behind  
Darken the comforts of Your purer mind.  
May all the blessings Wishes can invent  
Enrich your dayes, and crown them with content.  
And though You travel down into the West,  
May Your lifes Sun stand fixed in the East,  
Far from the weeping set; nor may my ear  
Take in that killing whisper, You once were.  
Thus kiss I your fair hands, taking my leave

As Prisoners at the Bar their doom receive.  
All joyes go with You: let sweet peace attend  
You on the way, and wait Your journeys end.  
But let Your discontents, and sower fate  
Remain with me, born off in my Retrait.  
Might all your crosses in that sheet of lead  
Which folds my heavy heart lie buried:  
'Tis the last service I would do You, and the best  
My wishes ever meant, or tongue profest.  
Once more I take my leave. And once for all,  
Our parting shews so like a funerall,  
It strikes my soul, which hath most right to be  
Chief Mourner at this sad solemnitie.  
And think not, Dearest, 'cause this parting knell  
Is rung in verses, that at Your farewell  
I onely mourn in Poetry and Ink:  
No, my Pens melancholy Plommets sink  
So low, they dive where th' hid affections sit,  
Blotting that Paper where my mirth was writ.  
Believ't that sorrow truest is which lies  
Deep in the breast, not floating in the eies:  
And he with saddest circumstance doth part,  
Who seals his farewell with a bleeding heart.

Henry King

# The Dirge

What is th' Existence of Mans life?  
But open war, or slumber'd strife.  
Where sickness to his sense presents  
The combat of the Elements:  
And never feels a perfect Peace  
Till deaths cold hand signs his release.  
It is a storm where the hot blood  
Out-vies in rage the boyling flood;  
And each loud Passion of the mind  
Is like a furious gust of wind,  
Which beats his Bark with many a Wave  
Till he casts Anchor in the Grave.  
It is a flower which buds and growes,  
And withers as the leaves disclose;  
Whose spring and fall faint seasons keep,  
Like fits of waking before sleep:  
Then shrinks into that fatal mold  
Where its first being was enroll'd.  
It is a dream, whose seeming truth  
Is moraliz'd in age and youth:  
Where all the comforts he can share  
As wandring as his fancies are;  
Till in a mist of dark decay  
The dreamer vanish quite away.  
It is a Diall, which points out  
The Sun-set as it moves about:  
And shadowes out in lines of night  
The subtile stages of times flight,  
Till all obscuring earth hath laid  
The body in perpetual shade.  
It is a weary enterlude  
Which doth short joyes, long woes include.  
The World the Stage, the Prologue tears,  
The Acts vain hope, and vary'd fears:  
The Scene shuts up with loss of breath,  
And leaves no Epilogue but Death.

Henry King

# The Exequy

1 Accept, thou shrine of my dead saint,  
2 Instead of dirges, this complaint;  
3 And for sweet flow'rs to crown thy hearse,  
4 From thy griev'd friend, whom thou might'st see  
5 Quite melted into tears for thee.  
6 Dear loss! since thy untimely fate  
7 My task hath been to meditate  
8 On thee, on thee; thou art the book,  
9 The library whereon I look,  
10 Though almost blind. For thee (lov'd clay)  
11 I languish out, not live, the day,  
12 Using no other exercise  
13 But what I practise with mine eyes;  
14 By which wet glasses I find out  
15 How lazily time creeps about  
16 To one that mourns; this, only this,  
17 My exercise and bus'ness is.  
18 So I compute the weary hours  
19 With sighs dissolved into showers.

20 Nor wonder if my time go thus  
21 Backward and most preposterous;  
22 Thou hast benighted me; thy set  
23 This eve of blackness did beget,  
24 Who wast my day (though overcast  
25 Before thou hadst thy noon-tide past)  
26 And I remember must in tears,  
27 Thou scarce hadst seen so many years  
28 As day tells hours. By thy clear sun  
29 My love and fortune first did run;  
30 But thou wilt never more appear  
31 Folded within my hemisphere,  
32 Since both thy light and mot{"i}on  
33 Like a fled star is fall'n and gone;  
34 And 'twixt me and my soul's dear wish  
35 An earth now interposed is,  
36 Which such a strange eclipse doth make  
37 As ne'er was read in almanac.

38 I could allow thee for a time  
39 To darken me and my sad clime;  
40 Were it a month, a year, or ten,  
41 I would thy exile live till then,  
42 And all that space my mirth adjourn,  
43 So thou wouldst promise to return,  
44 And putting off thy ashy shroud,  
45 At length disperse this sorrow's cloud.

46 But woe is me! the longest date  
47 Too narrow is to calculate  
48 These empty hopes; never shall I  
49 Be so much blest as to descry  
50 A glimpse of thee, till that day come  
51 Which shall the earth to cinders doom,  
52 And a fierce fever must calcine  
53 The body of this world like thine,  
54 (My little world!). That fit of fire  
55 Once off, our bodies shall aspire  
56 To our souls' bliss; then we shall rise  
57 And view ourselves with clearer eyes  
58 In that calm region where no night  
59 Can hide us from each other's sight.

60 Meantime, thou hast her, earth; much good  
61 May my harm do thee. Since it stood  
62 With heaven's will I might not call  
63 Her longer mine, I give thee all  
64 My short-liv'd right and interest  
65 In her whom living I lov'd best;  
66 With a most free and bounteous grief,  
67 I give thee what I could not keep.  
68 Be kind to her, and prithee look  
69 Thou write into thy doomsday book  
70 Each parcel of this rarity  
71 Which in thy casket shrin'd doth lie.  
72 See that thou make thy reck'ning straight,  
73 And yield her back again by weight;

74 For thou must audit on thy trust  
75 Each grain and atom of this dust,  
76 As thou wilt answer Him that lent,  
77 Not gave thee, my dear monument.

78 So close the ground, and 'bout her shade  
79 Black curtains draw, my bride is laid.

80 Sleep on my love in thy cold bed  
81 Never to be disquieted!  
82 My last good-night! Thou wilt not wake  
83 Till I thy fate shall overtake;  
84 Till age, or grief, or sickness must  
85 Marry my body to that dust  
86 It so much loves, and fill the room  
87 My heart keeps empty in thy tomb.  
88 Stay for me there, I will not fail  
89 To meet thee in that hollow vale.  
90 And think not much of my delay;  
91 I am already on the way,  
92 And follow thee with all the speed  
93 Desire can make, or sorrows breed.  
94 Each minute is a short degree,  
95 And ev'ry hour a step towards thee.  
96 At night when I betake to rest,  
97 Next morn I rise nearer my west  
98 Of life, almost by eight hours' sail,  
99 Than when sleep breath'd his drowsy gale.

100 Thus from the sun my bottom steers,  
101 And my day's compass downward bears;  
102 Nor labour I to stem the tide  
103 Through which to thee I swiftly glide.  
104 'Tis true, with shame and grief I yield,  
105 Thou like the van first took'st the field,  
106 And gotten hath the victory  
107 In thus adventuring to die  
108 Before me, whose more years might crave  
109 A just precedence in the grave.

110 But hark! my pulse like a soft drum  
111 Beats my approach, tells thee I come;  
112 And slow howe'er my marches be,  
113 I shall at last sit down by thee.

114 The thought of this bids me go on,  
115 And wait my dissolut<sup>i</sup>on  
116 With hope and comfort. Dear (forgive  
117 The crime) I am content to live  
118 Divided, with but half a heart,  
119 Till we shall meet and never part.

Henry King

# The Farewell

Splendidis longum valedico nugis.

Farewell fond Love, under whose childish whip,  
I have serv'd out a weary Prentiship;  
Thou that hast made me thy scorn'd property,  
To dote on Rocks, but yielding Loves to fly:  
Go bane of my dear quiet and content,  
Now practise on some other Patient.  
Farewell false Hope that fann'd my warm desire  
Till it had rais'd a wild unruly fire,  
Which nor sighs cool, nor tears extinguish can,  
Although my eyes out-flow'd the Ocean:  
Forth of my thoughts for ever, Thing of Air,  
Begun in errour, finish't in despair.  
Farewell vain World, upon whose restless stage  
Twixt Love and Hope I have foold out my age;  
Henceforth ere sue to thee for my redress,  
Ile wooe the wind, or court the wilderness;  
And buried from the dayes discovery,  
Study a slow yet certain way to dy.  
My woful Monument shall be a Cell,  
The murmur of the purling brook my knell;  
My lasting Epitaph the Rock shall grone:  
Thus when sad Lovers ask the weeping stone,  
What wretched thing does in that Center lie?  
The hollow Eccho will reply, 'twas I.

Henry King

# The Forfeiture

My Dearest, To let you or the world know  
What Debt of service I do truly ow  
To your unpattern'd self, were to require  
A language onely form'd in the desire  
Of him that writes. It is the common fate,  
Of greatest duties to evaporate  
In silent meaning, as we often see  
Fires by their too much fuel smother'd be:  
Small Obligations may find vent and speak,  
When greater the unable debtor break.  
And such are mine to you, whose favours store,  
Hath made me poorer then I was before;  
For I want words and language to declare  
How strict my Bond or large your bounties are.  
Since nothing in my desp'rate fortune found,  
Can payment make, nor yet the summe compound  
You must lose all, or else of force accept  
The body of a Bankrupt for your debt.  
Then Love, your Bond to Execution sue,  
And take my self, as forfeited to you.

Henry King

# The Forlorn Hope

How long vain Hope do'st thou my joys suspend?  
Say! must my expectation know no end!  
Thou wast more kind unto the wandring Greek  
Who did ten years his Wife and Country seek:  
Ten lazy Winters in my glass are run,  
Yet my thoughts travail seems but new begun.  
Smooth Quick-sand which the easy World beguiles,  
Thou shalt not bury me in thy false smiles.  
They that in hunting shadowes pleasure take  
May benefit of thy illusion make.  
Since thou hast banisht me from my content  
I here pronounce thy finall banishment.  
Farewell thou dream of nothing! thou meer voice!  
Get thee to fooles that can feed fat with noise:  
Bid wretches markt for death look for reprieve,  
Or men broke on the wheel perswade to live.  
Henceforth my comfort and best Hope shall be,  
By scorning Hope, nere to rely on thee.

Henry King

# The Labyrinth

Life is a crooked Labyrinth, and we  
Are daily lost in that Obliquity.  
'Tis a perplexed circle, in whose round  
Nothing but sorrows and new sins abound.  
How is the faint impression of each good  
Drown'd in the vicious Channel of our blood?  
Whose Ebbes and tides by their vicissitude  
Both our great Maker and our selves delude.  
O wherefore is the most discerning eye  
Unapt to make its own discovery?  
Why is the clearest and best judging mind  
In her own ills prevention dark and blind?  
Dull to advise, to act precipitate,  
We scarce think what to do but when too late.  
Or if we think, that fluid thought, like seed  
Rots there to propagate some fouler deed.  
Still we repent and sin, sin and repent;  
We thaw and freeze, we harden and relent.  
Those fires which cool'd to day the morrows heat  
Rekindles. Thus frail nature does repeat  
What she unlearnt, and still by learning on  
Perfects her lesson of confusion.  
Sick soul! what cure shall I for thee devise,  
Whose leprous state corrupts all remedies?  
What medicine or what cordial can be got  
For thee, who poyson'st thy best antidot?  
Repentance is thy bane, since thou by it  
Onely reviv'st the fault thou didst commit.  
Nor griev'st thou for the past, but art in pain  
For fear thou mayst not act it o're again.  
So that thy tears, like water spilt on lime,  
Serve not to quench, but to advance the crime.  
My blessed Saviour! unto thee I flie  
For help against this homebred tyrannie.  
Thou canst true sorrows in my soul imprint,  
And draw contrition from a breast of flint.  
Thou canst reverse this labyrinth of sin  
My wild affects and actions wander in.  
O guide my faith! and by thy graces clew

Teach me to hunt that kingdom at the view  
Where true joyes reign, which like their day shall last;  
Those never clouded, nor that overcast.

Henry King

# The Legacy

My dearest Love! when thou and I must part,  
And th' icy hand of death shall seize that heart  
Which is all thine; within some spacious will  
Ile leave no blanks for Legacies to fill:  
Tis my ambition to die one of those  
Who but himself hath nothing to dispose.  
And since that is already thine, what need  
I to re-give it by some newer deed?  
Yet take it once again. Free circumstance  
Does oft the value of mean things advance:  
Who thus repeats what he bequeath'd before,  
Proclaims his bounty richer then his store.  
But let me not upon my love bestow  
What is not worth the giving. I do ow  
Somwhat to dust: my bodies pamper'd care  
Hungry corruption and the worm will share.  
That mouldring relick which in earth must lie  
Would prove a gift of horroure to thine eie.  
With this cast ragge of my mortalitie  
Let all my faults and errours buried be.  
And as my sear-cloth rots, so may kind fate  
Those worst acts of my life incinerate.  
He shall in story fill a glorious room  
Whose ashes and whose sins sleep in one Tomb.  
If now to my cold hearse thou deign to bring  
Some melting sighs as thy last offering,  
My peacefull exequies are crown'd. Nor shall  
I ask more honour at my Funerall.  
Thou wilt more richly balm me with thy tears  
Then all the Nard fragrant Arabia bears.  
And as the Paphian Queen by her griefs show'r  
Brought up her dead Loves Spirit in a flow'r:  
So by those precious drops rain'd from thine eies,  
Out of my dust, O may some vertue rise!  
And like thy better Genius thee attend,  
Till thou in my dark Period shalt end.  
Lastly, my constant truth let me commend  
To him thou choosest next to be thy friend.  
For (witness all things good) I would not have

Thy Youth and Beauty married to my grave,  
'Twould shew thou didst repent the style of wife  
Should'st thou relapse into a single life.  
They with preposterous grief the world delude  
Who mourn for their lost Mates in solitude;  
Since Widdowhood more strongly doth enforce  
The much lamented lot of their divorce.  
Themselves then of their losses guilty are  
Who may, yet will not suffer a repaire.  
Those were Barbarian wives that did invent  
Weeping to death at th' Husbands Monument,  
But in more civil Rites She doth approve  
Her first, who ventures on a second Love;  
For else it may be thought, if She refrain,  
She sped so ill Shee durst not trie again.  
Up then my Love, and choose some worthier one  
Who may supply my room when I am gone;  
So will the stock of our affection thrive  
No less in death, then were I still alive.  
And in my urne I shall rejoyce, that I  
Am both Testatour thus and Legacie.

Henry King

# The Pink

Fair one, you did on me bestow  
Comparisons too sweet to ow;  
And but I found them sent from you  
I durst not think they could be true.  
But 'tis your uncontrolled power  
Goddess-like to produce a flower,  
And by your breath, without more seed,  
Make that a Pink which was a Weed.  
Because I would be loth to miss  
So sweet a Metamorphosis,  
Upon what stalk soere I grow  
Disdain not you sometimes to blow  
And cherish by your Virgin eye  
What in your frown would droop and die:  
So shall my thankful leaf repay  
Perfumed wishes every day:  
And o're your fortune breathe a spell  
Which may his obligation tell,  
Who though he nought but air can give  
Must ever your (Sweet) creature live.

Henry King

# The Retreat

Pursue no more (my thoughts!) that false unkind,  
You may assoon imprison the North-wind;  
Or catch the Lightning as it leaps; or reach  
The leading billow first ran down the breach;  
Or undertake the flying clouds to track  
In the same path they yesterday did rack.  
Then, like a Torch turn'd downward, let the same  
Desire which nourisht it, put out your flame.  
Loe thus I doe divorce thee from my brest,  
False to thy vow, and traitour to my rest!  
Henceforth thy tears shall be (though thou repent)  
Like pardons after execution sent.  
Nor shalt thou ever my loves story read,  
But as some Epitaph of what is dead.  
So may my hope on future blessings dwell,  
As 'tis my firm resolve and last farewell.

Henry King

# The Short Wooing

Like an Oblation set before a Shrine,  
Fair One! I offer up this heart of mine.  
Whether the Saint accept my Gift or no,  
Ile neither fear nor doubt before I know.  
For he whose faint distrust prevents reply,  
Doth his own suits denial prophecy.  
Your will the sentence is; Who free as Fate  
Can bid my love proceed, or else retreat.  
And from short views that verdict is decreed  
Which seldom doth one audience exceed.  
Love asks no dull probation, but like light  
Conveyes his nimble influence at first sight.  
I need not therefore importune or press;  
This were t'extort unwilling happiness:  
And much against affection might I sin:  
To tire and weary what I seek to win.  
Towns which by lingring siege enforced be  
Oft make both sides repent the victorie.  
Be Mistriss of your self: and let me thrive  
Or suffer by your own prerogative.  
Yet stay, since you are Judge, who in one breath  
Bear uncontrolled power of Life and Death,  
Remember (Sweet) pity doth best become  
Those lips which must pronounce a Suitors doome.  
If I find that, my spark of chast desire  
Shall kindle into Hymens holy fire:  
Else like sad flowers will these verses prove,  
To stick the Coffin of rejected Love.

Henry King

# The Surrender

MY once dear love, hapless that I no more  
Must call thee so, the rich affection's store  
That fed our hope lies now exhaust and spent,  
Like sums of treasure unto bankrupts lent.

We, that did nothing study but the way  
To love each other, with which thoughts the day  
Rose with delight to us and with them set,  
Must learn the hateful art, how to forget.

We that did nothing wish that Heaven would give  
Beyond ourselves, nor did desire to live  
Beyond that wish, all these now cancel must  
As if not writ in faith, but words and dust.

Yet witness those clear vows which lovers make,  
Witness the chaste desires that never brake  
Into unruly heats; witness that breast  
Which in thy bosom anchor'd his whole rest;  
'Tis no default in us: I dare acquite  
Thy maiden faith, thy purpose fair and white  
As thy pure self. Cross planets did envy  
Us to each other, and Heaven did untie  
Faster than vows could bind. Oh, that the stars,  
When lovers meet, should stand opposed in wars!

Since, then, some higher destinies command,  
Let us not strive, nor labor to withstand  
What is past help. The longest date of grief  
Can never yield a hope of our relief;  
And though we waste ourselves in moist laments,  
Tears may drown us, but not our discontents.

Fold back our arms, take home our fruitless loves,  
That must new fortunes try, like turtle doves  
Dislodg'd from their haunts. We must in tears  
Unwind a love knit up in many years.  
In this last kiss I here surrender thee  
Back to thy self, so thou again art free;

Thou in another, sad as that, resend  
The truest heart that lover e'er did lend.

Now turn from each. So fare our severed hearts  
As the divorced soul from her body parts.

Henry King

# The Vow-Breaker

When first the Magick of thine ey,  
Usurpt upon my liberty,  
Triumphing in my hearts spoyle, thou  
Didst lock up thine in such a vow;  
When I prove false, may the bright day  
Be govern'd by the Moons pale ray!  
(As I too well remember) This  
Thou said'st, and seald'st it with a kiss.  
O Heavens! and could so soon that Ty  
Relent in slack Apostacy?  
Could all thy Oaths, and morgag'd trust,  
Vanish? like letters form'd in dust  
Which the next wind scatters. Take heed,  
Take heed Revolter; know this deed  
Hath wrong'd the world, which will fare worse  
By thy Example then thy Curse.  
Hide that false Brow in mists. Thy shame  
Ne're see light more, but the dimme flame  
Of funeral Lamps. Thus sit and moane,  
And learn to keep thy guilt at home.  
Give it no vent; for if agen  
Thy Love or Vowes betray more men,  
At length (I fear) thy perjur'd breath  
Will blow out day, and waken Death.

Henry King

## To A Friend Upon Overbury's Wife Given To Her

I know no fitter subject for your view  
Then this, a meditation ripe for you,  
As you for it. Which when you read you'll see  
What kind of wife your self will one day be:  
Which happy day be neer you, and may this  
Remain with you as earnest of my wish;  
When you so far love any, that you dare  
Venture your whole affection on his care,  
May he for whom you change your Virgin-life  
Prove good to you, and perfect as this Wife.

Henry King

# To A Lady Who Sent Me A Copy Of Verses At My Going To Bed

Lady your art or wit could nere devise  
To shame me more then in this nights surprise.  
Why I am quite unready, and my eye  
Now winking like my candle, doth deny  
To guide my hand, if it had ought to write;  
Nor can I make my drowsie sense indite  
Which by your verses musick (as a spell  
Sent from the Sybellean Oracle)  
Is charm'd and bound in wonder and delight,  
Faster then all the leaden chains of night.  
What pity is it then you should so ill  
Employ the bounty of your flowing quill,  
As to expend on him your bedward thought,  
Who can acknowledge that large love in nought  
But this lean wish; that fate soon send you those  
Who may requite your rhimes with midnight prose?  
Mean time, may all delights and pleasing Theams  
Like Masquers revell in your Maiden dreams,  
Whil'st dull to write, and to do more unmeet,  
I, as the night invites me, fall asleep.

Henry King

## To A. R. Vpon The Same

Not that I would instruct or tutor you  
What is a Wifes behest, or Husbands due,  
Give I this Widdow-Wife. Your early date  
Of knowledge makes such Precepts slow and late.  
This book is but your glass, where you shall see  
What your self are, what other Wives should bee.

Henry King

# To His Friends Of Christ-Church Upon The Mislike Of The Marriage Of The Arts Acted At Woodstock

But is it true, the Court mislik't the Play,  
That Christ-Church and the Arts have lost the day;  
That Ignoramus should so far excell,  
Their Hobby-horse from ours hath born the Bell?  
Troth you are justly serv'd, that would present  
Ought unto them, but shallow merriment;  
Or to your Marriage-table did admit  
Guests that are stronger far in smell than wit.  
Had some quaint Bawdry larded ev'ry Scene,  
Some fawning Sycophant, or courted queane;  
Had there appear'd some sharp cross-garter'd man  
Whom their loud laugh might nick-name Puritan,  
Cas'd up in factious breeches and small ruffe,  
That hates the surplis, and defies the cuffe: Then sure they would have given  
applause to crown  
That which their ignorance did now cry down.  
Let me advise, when next you do bestow  
Your pains on men that do but little know,  
You do no Chorus nor a Comment lack,  
Which may expound and construe ev'ry Act:  
That it be short and slight; for if 't be good  
Tis long, and neither lik't nor understood.  
Know tis Court fashion still to discommend  
All that which they want brain to comprehend.

Henry King

## To His Unconstant Friend

But say thou very woman, why to me  
This fit of weakness and inconstancie?  
What forfeit have I made of word or vow,  
That I am rack't on thy displeasure now?  
If I have done a fault I do not shame  
To cite it from thy lips, give it a name:  
I ask the banes, stand forth, and tell me why  
We should not in our wonted loves comply?  
Did thy cloy'd appetite urge thee to trie  
If any other man could love as I?  
I see friends are like clothes, lad up whil'st new,  
But after wearing cast, though nere so true.  
Or did thy fierce ambition long to make  
Some Lover turn a martyr for thy sake?  
Thinking thy beauty had deserv'd no name  
Unless some one do perish in that flame:  
Upon whose loving dust this sentence lies,  
Here's one was murther'd by his Mistriss eyes.  
Or was't because my love to thee was such,  
I could not choose but blab it? swear how much  
I was thy slave, and doting let thee know,  
I better could my self then thee forgo.  
Hearken ye men that ere shall love like me,  
Ile give you counsel gratis: if you be  
Possest of what you like, let your fair friend  
Lodge in your bosom, but no secrets send  
To seek their lodging in a female brest;  
For so much is abated of your rest.  
The Steed that comes to understand his strength  
Growes wild, and casts his manager at length:  
And that tame Lover who unlocks his heart  
Unto his Mistriss, teaches her an art  
To plague himself; shews her the secret way  
How She may tyrannize another day.  
And now my fair unkindness, thus to thee;  
Mark how wise Passion and I agree:  
Hear and be sorry for't. I will not die  
To expiate thy crime of levitie:  
I walk (not cross-arm'd neither) eat, and live,

Yea live to pity thy neglect, not grieve  
That thou art from thy faith and promise gone,  
Nor envy him who by my loss hath won.  
Thou shalt perceive thy changing Moon-like fits  
Have not infected me, or turn'd my wits  
To Lunacie. I do not mean to weep  
When I should eat, or sigh when I should sleep;  
I will not fall upon my pointed quill,  
Bleed ink and Poems, or invention spill  
To contrive Ballads, or weave Elegies  
For Nurses wearing when the infant cries.  
Nor like th' enamour'd Tristrams of the time,  
Despair in prose, and hang my self in rhyme.  
Nor thither run upon my verses feet,  
Where I shall none but fools or mad-men meet,  
Who mid'st the silent shades, and Myrtle walks,  
Pule and do penance for their Mistress faults.  
I'm none of those poetick male-contents  
Born to make paper dear with my laments:  
Or wild Orlando that will rail and vex,  
And for thy sake fall out with all the sex.  
No, I will love again, and seek a prize  
That shall redeem me from thy poor despise.  
Ile court my fortune now in such a shape  
That will no faint die, nor starv'd colour take.  
Thus launch I off with triumph from thy shore,  
To which my last farewell; for never more  
Will I touch there. I put to Sea again  
Blown with the churlish wind of thy disdain.  
Nor will I stop this course till I have found  
A Coast that yields safe harbour, and firm ground.  
Smile ye Love-Starres; wing'd with desire I fly,  
To make my wishes full discovery:  
Nor doubt I but for one that proves like you,  
I shall find ten as fair, and yet more true.

Henry King

# To My Dead Friend Ben Johnson

I see that wreath which doth the wearer arm  
'Gainst the quick strokes of thunder, is no charm  
To keep off deaths pale dart. For, Johnson then  
Thou hadst been number'd still with living men.  
Times sithe had fear'd thy Lawrel to invade,  
Nor thee this subject of our sorrow made.  
Amongst those many votaries who come  
To offer up their Garlands at thy Tombe;  
Whil'st some more lofty pens in their bright verse  
(Like glorious Tapers flaming on thy herse)  
Shall light the dull and thankless world to see,  
How great a maim it suffers wanting thee;  
Let not thy learned shadow scorn, that I  
Pay meaner Rites unto thy memory;  
And since I nought can adde, but in desire  
Restore some sparks which leapt from thine own fire.  
What ends soever others quills invite,  
I can protest, it was no itch to write,  
Nor any vain ambition to be read,  
But meerly Love and Justice to the dead  
Which rais'd my fameless Muse; and caus'd her bring  
These drops, as tribute thrown into that spring,  
To whose most rich and fruitful head we ow  
The purest streams of language which can flow.  
For 'tis but truth, thou taught'st the ruder age  
To speake by Grammar, and reform'dst the Stage:  
Thy Comick Sock induc'd such purged sence,  
A Lucrece might have heard without offence.  
Amongst those soaring wits that did dilate  
Our English, and advance it to the rate  
And value it now holds, thy self was one  
Helpt lift it up to such proportion.  
That thus refin'd and roab'd, it shall not spare  
With the full Greek or Latine to compare.  
For what tongue ever durst, but ours, translate  
Great Tully's Eloquence, or Homers State?  
Both which in their unblemisht lustre shine,  
From Chapmans pen, and from thy Catiline.  
All I would ask for thee, in recompence

Of thy successful toyl and times expence,  
Is onely this poor Boon: that those who can  
Perhaps read French, or talk Italian,  
Or do the lofty Spaniard affect;  
To shew their skill in Forrein Dialect,  
Prove not themselves so unnaturally wise,  
They therefore should their Mother-tongue despise.  
(As if her Poets both for style and wit  
Not equall'd, or not pass'd their best that writ)  
Untill by studying Johnson they have known  
The height and strength and plenty of their own.  
Thus in what low earth or neglected room  
Soere thou sleep'st, thy book shall be thy tomb.  
Thou wilt go down a happy Coarse, bestrew'd  
With thine own Flowres; and feel thy self renew'd,  
Whil'st thy immortal never-with'ring Bayes  
Shall yearly flourish in thy Readers praise.  
And when more spreading Titles are forgot,  
Or spight of all their Lead and Sear-cloth rot,  
Thou wrapt and Shrin'd in thine own sheets, wilt ly  
A Relick fam'd by all Posterity.

Henry King

# To My Honoured Friend Mr. George Sandys

It is, Sir, a confest intrusion here  
That I before your labours do appear,  
Which no loud Herald need, that may proclaim  
Or seek acceptance, but the Authors fame.  
Much less that should this happy work commend,  
Whose subject is its licence, and doth send  
It to the world to be receiv'd and read,  
Far as the glorious beams of truth are spread.  
Nor let it be imagin'd that I look  
Onely with Customes eye upon your book;  
Or in this service that 'twas my intent  
T'exclude your person from your argument:  
I shall profess much of the love I ow,  
Doth from the root of our extraction grow;  
To which though I can little contribute,  
Yet with a naturall joy I must impute  
To our Tribes honour, what by you is done  
Worthy the title of a Prelates son.  
And scarcely have two brothers farther borne  
A Fathers name, or with more value worne  
Their own, then two of you; whose pens and feet  
Have made the distant Points of Heav'n to meet;  
He by exact discoveries of the West,  
Your self by painful travels in the East.  
Some more like you might pow'rfully confute  
Th' opposers of Priests marriage by the fruit.  
And (since tis known for all their streight vow'd life,  
They like the sex in any style but wife)  
Cause them to change their Cloyster for that State  
Which keeps men chaste by vowes legitimate:  
Nor shame to father their relations,  
Or under Nephews names disguise their sons.  
This Child of yours born without spurious blot,  
And fairly Midwiv'd as it was begot,  
Doth so much of the Parents goodness wear,  
You may be proud to own it for your Heir.  
Whose choice acquits you from the common sin  
Of such, who finish worse then they begin:  
You mend upon your self, and your last strain

Does of your first the start in judgment gain;  
Since what in curious travel was begun,  
You here conclude in a devotion.  
Where in delightful raptures we descry  
As in a Map, Sions Chorography  
Laid out in so direct and smooth a line,  
Men need not go about through Palestine:  
Who seek Christ here will the streight Rode prefer,  
As neerer much then by the Sepulchre.  
For not a limb growes here, but is a path;  
Which in Gods City the blest Center hath:  
And doth so sweetly on each passion strike,  
The most fantastick taste will somewhat like.  
To the unquiet soul Job still from hence  
Pleads in th' example of his patience.  
The mortify'd may hear the wise King preach,  
When his repentance made him fit to teach.  
Nor shall the singing Sisters be content  
To chant at home the Act of Parliament,  
Turn'd out of reason into rhyme by one  
Free of his trade, though not of Helicon,  
Who did in his Poetick zeal contend  
Others edition by a worse to mend.  
Here are choice Hymnes and Carolls for the glad,  
With melancholy Dirges for the sad:  
And David (as he could his skill transfer)  
Speaks like himself by an interpreter.  
Your Muse rekindled hath the Prophets fire,  
And tun'd the strings of his neglected Lyre;  
Making the Note and Ditty so agree,  
They now become a perfect harmonie.  
I must confess, I have long wisht to see  
The Psalmes reduc'd to this conformity:  
Grieving the songs of Sion should be sung  
In phrase not diff'ring from a barbarous tongue.  
As if, by custome warranted, we may  
Sing that to God we would be loth to say.  
Far be it from my purpose to upbraid  
Their honest meaning, who first offer made  
That book in Meeter to compile, which you  
Have mended in the form, and built anew:  
And it was well, considering the time,

Which hardly could distinguish verse and rhyme.  
But now the language, like the Church, hath won  
More lustre since the Reformation;  
None can condemn the wish or labour spent  
Good matter in good words to represent.  
Yet in this jealous age some such there be,  
So without cause afraid of novelty,  
They would not (were it in their pow'r to choose)  
An old ill practise for a better lose.  
Men who a rustick plainnesse so affect,  
They think God served best by their neglect.  
Holding the cause would be profan'd by it,  
Were they at charge of learning or of wit.  
And therefore bluntly (what comes next) they bring  
Course and unstudy'd stuffs for offering;  
Which like th' old Tabernacles cov'ring are,  
Made up of Badgers skins, and of Goats haire.  
But these are Paradoxes they must use  
Their sloth and bolder ignorance t'excuse.  
Who would not laugh at one will naked go,  
'Cause in old hangings truth is pictur'd so?  
Though plainness be reputed honours note,  
They mantles use to beautify the coat;  
So that a curious (unaffected) dress  
Addes much unto the bodies comeliness:  
And wheresoere the subjects best, the sence  
Is better'd by the speakers eloquence.  
But, Sir, to you I shall no trophee raise  
From other mens detraction or dispraise:  
That Jewel never had inherent worth,  
Which askt such foils as these to set it forth.  
If any quarrel your attempt or style,  
Forgive them; their own folly they revile.  
Since, 'gainst themselves, their factious envy shall  
Allow this work of yours Canonicall.  
Nor may you fear the Poets common lot,  
Read, and commended, and then quite forgot:  
The brazen Mines and Marble Rocks shall wast,  
When your foundation will unshaken last.  
'Tis fames best pay, that you your labours see  
By their immortal subject crowned be.  
For nere was writer in oblivion hid

Who firm'd his name on such a Pyramid.

Henry King

## To My Sister Anne King, Who Chid Me In Verse For Being Angry

Dear Nan, I would not have thy counsel lost,  
Though I last night had twice so much been crost;  
Well is a Passion to the Market brought,  
When such a treasure of advice is bought  
With so much dross. And could'st thou me assure,  
Each vice of mine should meet with such a cure,  
I would sin oft, and on my guilty brow  
Wear every misperfection that I ow,  
Open and visible; I should not hide  
But bring my faults abroad: to hear thee chide  
In such a Note, and with a Quill so sage,  
It Passion tunes, and calmes a Tempests rage.  
Well I am charm'd, and promise to redress  
What, without shrift, my follies doe confess  
Against my self: wherefore let me intreat,  
When I fly out in that distemper'd heat  
Which frets me into fests, thou wilt reprove  
That froward spleen in Poetry and Love:  
So though I lose my reason in such fits,  
Thoul't rime me back again into my wits.

Henry King

## To One Demanding Why Wine Sparkles

So Diamonds sparkle, and thy Mistriss eyes;  
When tis not Fire but light in either flyes.  
Beauty not thaw'd by lustful flames will show  
Like a fair mountain of unmelted snow:  
Nor can the tasted vine more danger bring  
Then water taken from the chrystall Spring,  
Whose end is to refresh and cool that heat  
Which unallayd becomes foul vices seat:  
Unless thy boyling veins, mad with desire  
Of drink, convert the liquor into fire.  
For then thou quaff'st down feavers, thy full bowles  
Carouse the burning draughts of Portia's coles.  
If it do leap and sparkle in the cup,  
Twill sink thy cares, and help invention up.  
There never yet was Muse or Poet known  
Not dipt or drenched in this Helicon.  
But Tom! take heed thou use it with such care  
As Witches deal with their Familiar.  
For if thy vertues circle not confine  
And guard thee from the Furies rais'd by wine,  
'Tis ten to one this dancing spirit may  
A Devil prove to bear thy wits away;  
And make thy glowing nose a Map of Hell  
Where Bacchus purple fumes like Meteors dwell.  
Now think not these sage moralls thee invite  
To prove Carthusian or strict Rechabite;  
Let fooles be mad, wise people may be free,  
Though not to license turn their libertie.  
He that drinks wine for health, not for excess,  
Nor drownes his temper in a drunkenness,  
Shall feel no more the grapes unruly fate,  
Then if he took some chilling Opiate.

Henry King

# To The Queen At Oxford

Great Lady! That thus quite against our use,  
We speak your welcome by an English Muse,  
And in a vulgar tongue our zeales contrive,  
Is to confess your large prerogative,  
Who have the pow'rful freedom to dispense  
With our strict Rules, or Customes difference.  
Tis fit when such a Star deigns to appeare  
And shine within the Academick Spheare,  
That ev'ry Colledge grac't by your resort,  
Should onely speak the language of your Court;  
As if Apollo's learned Quire, but You  
No other Queen of the Ascendent knew.  
Let those that list invoke the Delphian name,  
To light their verse, and quench their doting flame;  
In Helicon it were High Treason now,  
Did any to a feign'd Minerva bow;  
When You are present, whose chast vertues stain  
The vaunted glories of her Maiden brain.  
I would not flatter. May that dyet feed  
Deform'd and vicious soules: they onely need  
Such physick, who grown sick of their decayes,  
Are onely cur'd with surfets of false praise;  
Like those, who fall'n from Youth or Beauties grace,  
Lay colours on which more bely the face.  
Be You still what You are; a glorious Theme  
For Truth to crown. So when that Diademe  
Which circles Your fair brow drops off, and time  
Shall lift You to that pitch our prayers climbe;  
Posterity will plat a nobler wreath,  
To crown Your fame and memory in death.  
This is sad truth and plain, which I might fear  
Would scarce prove welcome to a Princes ear;  
And hardly may you think that Writer wise  
Who preaches there where he should poetize;  
Yet where so rich a bank of goodness is,  
Triumphs and Feasts admit such thoughts as this;  
Nor will your vertue from her Client turn,  
Although he bring his tribute in an urn.  
Enough of this: who knowes not when to end

Needs must by tedious diligence offend.  
'Tis not a Poets office to advance  
The precious value of allegiance.  
And least of all the rest do I affect  
To word my duty in this dialect.  
My service lies a better way, whose tone  
Is spirited by full devotion.  
Thus whil'st I mention You, Your Royal Mate,  
And Those which your blest line perpetuate,  
I shall such votes of happiness rehearse,  
Whose softest accents will out-tongue my verse.

Henry King

## To The Same Lady Upon Mr. Burtons Melancholy

If in this Glass of Humours you do find  
The Passions or diseases of your mind,  
Here without pain, you safely may endure,  
Though not to suffer, yet to read your cure.  
But if you nothing meet you can apply,  
Then ere you need, you have a remedy.  
And I do wish you never may have cause  
To be adjudg'd by these fantastick Laws;  
But that this books example may be known,  
By others Melancholy, not your own.

Henry King

## Upon A Braid Of Hair In A Heart Sent By Mrs. E. H.

In this small Character is sent  
My Loves eternal Monument.  
Whil'st we shall live, know, this chain'd Heart  
Is our affections counter-part.  
And if we never meet, think I  
Bequeath'd it as my Legacy.

Henry King

## Upon A Table-Book Presented To A Lady

When your fair hand receives this little book  
You must not there for prose or verses look.  
Those empty regions which within you see,  
May by your self planted and peopled be:  
And though we scarce allow your sex to prove  
Writers (unless the Argument be Love);  
Yet without crime or envy you have roome  
Here, both the Scribe and Author to become.

Henry King

# Upon The Death Of My Ever Desired Friend Doctor Donne Dean Of Pauls

To have liv'd eminent in a degreee  
Beyond our lofty'st flights, that is like thee;  
Or t'have had too much merit is not safe;  
For such excesses find no Epitaph.  
At common graves we have Poetick eyes  
Can melt themselves in easie Elegies;  
Each quill can drop his tributary verse,  
And pin it with the Hatchments, to the Herse:  
But at thine, Poem or inscription  
(Rich Soul of wit and language); we have none;  
Indeed a silence does that Tomb befit  
Where is no Herald left to blazon it.  
Widdow'd invention justly doth forbear  
To come abroad knowing thou art not here,  
Late her great Patron; whose prerogative  
Maintain'd and cloth'd her so, as none alive  
Must now presume to keep her at thy rate,  
Though he the Indies for her dowre estate:  
Or else that awful fire, which once did burn  
In thy clear brain, now fall'n into thy Urn.  
Lives there to fright rude Empericks from thence,  
Which might profane thee by their ignorance:  
Who ever writes of thee, and in a style  
Unworthy such a Theme, does but revile  
Thy precious dust, and wake a learned spirit  
Which may revenge his rapes upon thy merit.  
For all a low-pitcht fancie can devise,  
Will prove at best but hallow'd injuries.  
Thou, like the dying Swan, didst lately sing  
Thy mournful Dirge in audience of the King;  
When pale looks, and faint accents of thy breath,  
Presented so to life that piece of death,  
That it was fear'd and prophesi'd by all  
Thou thither cam'st to preach thy Funerall.  
O! hadst thou in an Elegiack knell  
Rung out unto the world thine own farewell;  
And in thy high victorious numbers beat

The solemn measure of thy griev'd retreat:  
Thou might'st the Poets service now have mist,  
As well as then thou didst prevent the Priest:  
And never to the world beholden be,  
So much as for an Epitaph for thee.  
I do not like the office. Nor is't fit  
Thou, who didst lend our age such summes of wit,  
Should'st now reborrow from her Bankrupt Mine  
That Ore to bury thee, which once was thine.  
Rather still leave us in thy debt; and know  
(Exalted Soul!) More glory 'tis to ow  
Unto thy Herse what we can never pay,  
Then with embased coin those Rites defray.  
Commit we then Thee to Thy Self: nor blame  
Our drooping loves, which thus to thine own fame  
Leave Thee Executour: since but thy own  
No pen could do Thee Justice, nor Bayes crown  
Thy vast desert; save that we nothing can  
Depute to be thy ashes Guardian.  
So Jewellers no Art or Metal trust  
To form the Diamond, but the Diamonds dust.

Henry King

# Upon The Kings Happy Return From Scotland

So breaks the day when the returning Sun  
Hath newly through his Winter Tropick run,  
As You (Great Sir!) in this regress come forth  
From the remoter Climate of the North.  
To tell You now what cares, what fears we past,  
What Clouds of sorrow did the land ore-cast,  
Were lost, but unto such as have been there  
Where the absented Sun benights the year:  
Or have those Countreys traveld which nere feel  
The warmth and vertue of his flaming wheel.  
How happy yet were we! that when you went,  
You left within your Kingdomes firmament  
A Partner-Light, whose lustre may despise  
The nightly glimm'ring Tapers of the skies,  
Your peerless Queen; and at each hand a Starre  
Whose hopeful beams from You enkindled are.  
Though (to say truth) the light which they could bring  
Serv'd but to lengthen out our evening.  
Heavens greater lamps illumine it; each spark  
Adds onely this, to make the sky less dark.  
Nay She who is the glory of her sex  
Did sadly droop for lack of Your reflex:  
Oft did She her fair brow in loneness shrowd,  
And dimly shone, like Venus in a cloud.  
Now are those gloomy mists dry'd up by You,  
As the Worlds eye scatters the Ev'ning dew:  
And You bring home that blessing to the land  
Which absence made us rightly understand.  
Here may You henceforth stay! there need no charms  
To hold You, but the circle of her arms,  
Whose fruitful love yields You a rich increase,  
Seales of Your joy, and of the kingdomes peace.  
O may those precious pledges fixe You here,  
And You grow old within that chrystall Sphere!  
Pardon this bold detention. Else our love  
Will meerly an officious trouble prove.  
Each busie minute tells us as it flies,  
That there are better objects for your eyes.  
To them let us leave you, whil'st we go pray,

Raising this triumph to a Holy-day.  
And may that soul the Churches blessing want;  
May his content be short, his comforts scant,  
Whose Bosom-Altar does no incense burn,  
In thankful sacrifice for your return.

Henry King