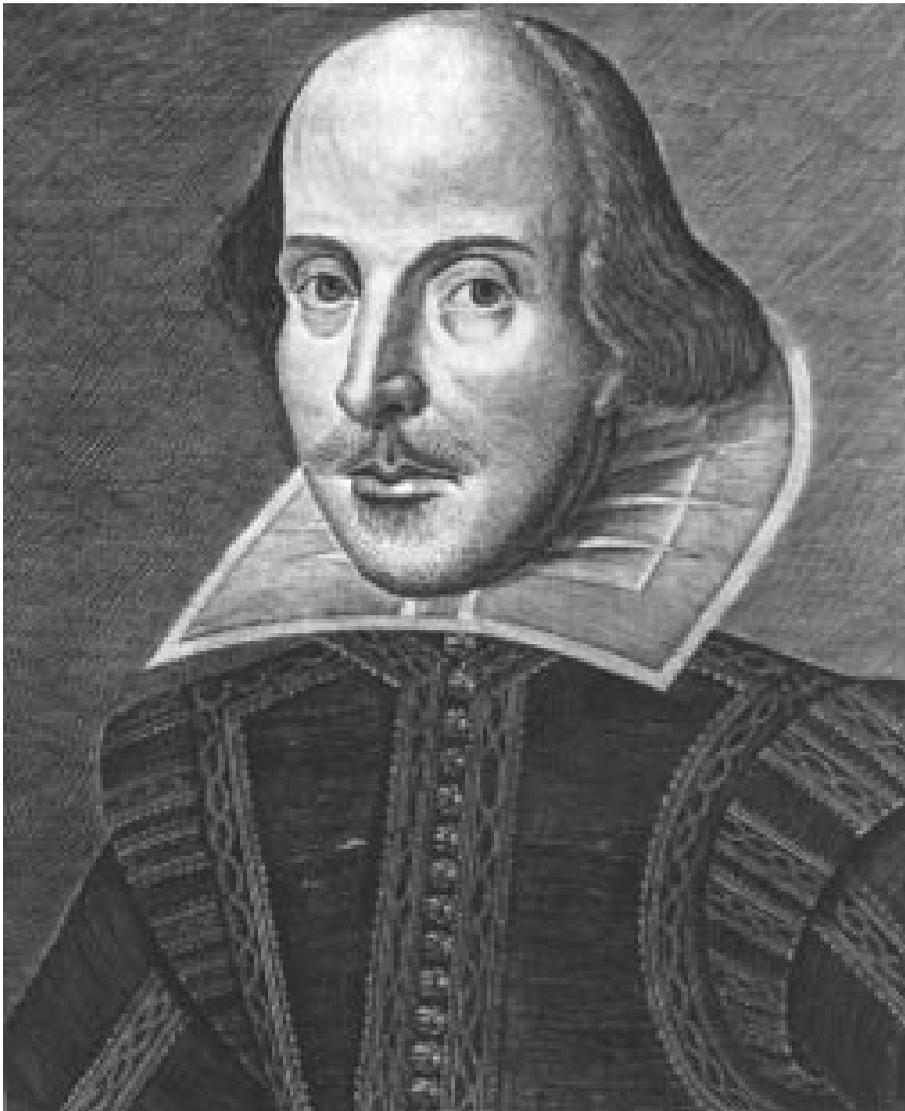


VOLUME II BOOK I



1 KING HENRY IV



By William Shakespeare

Dramatis Personae



KING HENRY THE FOURTH. (*KING HENRY IV*)

HENRY, PRINCE OF WALES }
(*PRINCE HENRY*) } *sons of the King.*
JOHN OF LANCASTER }
(*LANCASTER*) }

WESTMORELAND.

SIR WALTER BLUNT.

THOMAS PERCY *Earl of Worcester.*
(*EARL OF WORCESTER*)

HENRY PERCY *Earl of Northumberland.*
(*NORTHUMBERLAND*)

HENRY PERCY *surnamed Hotspur, his son.*
(*HOTSPUR*)

EDMUND MORTIMER *Earl of March.* (*MORTIMER*)

RICHARD SCROOP *Archbishop of York.*
(*ARCHBISHOP OF YORK*)

ARCHIBALD *Earl of Douglas.* (*EARL OF DOUGLAS*)

OWEN GLENDOWER. (*GLENDOWER*)

SIR RICHARD VERNON. (*VERNON*)

SIR JOHN FALSTAFF. (*FALSTAFF*)

SIR MICHAEL *a friend to the Archbishop of York.*

POINS.

GADSHILL.

PETO.

BARDOLPH.

FRANCIS *a waiter.*

LADY PERCY *wife to Hotspur, and sister to Mortimer.*

LADY MORTIMER *daughter to Glendower,*
and wife to Mortimer.

MISTRESS QUICKLY *hostess of a tavern in Eastcheap.*
(*HOSTESS*)

Lords, Officers, Sheriff, Vintner, Chamberlain, Drawers,
two Carriers, Travellers, Attendants, and an Ostler.
(*SHERIFF*), (*VINTNER*), (*CHAMBERLAIN*),
(*FIRST CARRIER*), (*SECOND CARRIER*),
(*FIRST TRAVELLER*), (*SERVANT*),
(*MESSSENGER*), (*OSTLER*))

SCENE *England.*

1 King Henry IV



ACT I

SCENE I

London. The palace.

[Enter KING HENRY, LORD JOHN OF LANCASTER, the EARL of WESTMORELAND, SIR WALTER BLUNT, and others]

KING HENRY IV So shaken as we are, so wan with care,
Find we a time for frightened peace to pant,
And breathe short-winded accents of new broils
To be commenced in strands afar remote.
No more the thirsty entrance of this soil
Shall daub her lips with her own children's blood;
Nor more shall trenching war channel her fields,
Nor bruise her flowerets with the armed hoofs
Of hostile paces: those opposed eyes,
Which, like the meteors of a troubled heaven,
All of one nature, of one substance bred,
Did lately meet in the intestine shock
And furious close of civil butchery
Shall now, in mutual well-beseeming ranks,
March all one way and be no more opposed
Against acquaintance, kindred and allies:
The edge of war, like an ill-sheathed knife,
No more shall cut his master. Therefore, friends,
As far as to the sepulchre of Christ,
Whose soldier now, under whose blessed cross
We are impressed and engaged to fight,
Forthwith a power of English shall we levy;
Whose arms were moulded in their mothers' womb
To chase these pagans in those holy fields
Over whose acres walk'd those blessed feet
Which fourteen hundred years ago were nail'd
For our advantage on the bitter cross.
But this our purpose now is twelve month old,

And bootless 'tis to tell you we will go:
Therefore we meet not now. Then let me hear
Of you, my gentle cousin Westmoreland,
What yesternight our council did decree
In forwarding this dear expedience.

WESTMORELAND My liege, this haste was
hot in question,
And many limits of the charge set down
But yesternight: when all athwart there came
A post from Wales loaden with heavy news;
Whose worst was, that the noble Mortimer,
Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight
Against the irregular and wild Glendower,
Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken,
A thousand of his people butchered;
Upon whose dead corpse there was such misuse,
Such beastly shameless transformation,
By those Welshwomen done as may not be
Without much shame retold or spoken of.

KING HENRY IV It seems then that the tidings of
this broil
Brake off our business for the Holy Land.

WESTMORELAND This match'd with other did, my
gracious lord;
For more uneven and unwelcome news
Came from the north and thus it did import:
On Holy-rood day, the gallant Hotspur there,
Young Harry Percy and brave Archibald,
That ever-valiant and approved Scot,
At Holmedon met,
Where they did spend a sad and bloody hour,
As by discharge of their artillery,
And shape of likelihood, the news was told;

For he that brought them, in the very heat
And pride of their contention did take horse,
Uncertain of the issue any way.

KING HENRY IV Here is a dear, a true industrious friend,
Sir Walter Blunt, new lighted from his horse.
Stain'd with the variation of each soil
Betwixt that Holmedon and this seat of ours;
And he hath brought us smooth and welcome news.
The Earl of Douglas is discomfited:
Ten thousand bold Scots, two and twenty knights,
Balk'd in their own blood did Sir Walter see
On Holmedon's plains. Of prisoners, Hotspur took
Mordake the Earl of Fife, and eldest son
To beaten Douglas; and the Earl of Athol,
Of Murray, Angus, and Menteith:
And is not this an honourable spoil?
A gallant prize? Ha, cousin, is it not?

WESTMORELAND In faith,
It is a conquest for a prince to boast of.

KING HENRY IV Yea, there thou makest me sad and
makest me sin
In envy that my Lord Northumberland
Should be the father to so blest a son,
A son who is the theme of honour's tongue;
Amongst a grove, the very straightest plant;
Who is sweet Fortune's minion and her pride:
Whilst I, by looking on the praise of him,
See riot and dishonour stain the brow
Of my young Harry. O that it could be proved
That some night-tripping fairy had exchanged
In cradle-clothes our children where they lay,
And call'd mine Percy, his Plantagenet!
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine.
But let him from my thoughts. What think you, coz,
Of this young Percy's pride? The prisoners,
Which he in this adventure hath surprised,
To his own use he keeps; and sends me word,
I shall have none but Mordake Earl of Fife.

WESTMORELAND This is his uncle's teaching;
this is Worcester,
Malevolent to you in all aspects;
Which makes him prune himself, and bristle up
The crest of youth against your dignity.

KING HENRY IV But I have sent for him to answer this;
And for this cause awhile we must neglect
Our holy purpose to Jerusalem.
Cousin, on Wednesday next our council we
Will hold at Windsor; so inform the lords:
But come yourself with speed to us again;
For more is to be said and to be done
Than out of anger can be uttered.

WESTMORELAND I will, my liege.

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE II

London. An apartment of the Prince's.

[*Enter the PRINCE OF WALES and FALSTAFF*]

FALSTAFF Now, Hal, what time of day is it, lad?

PRINCE HENRY Thou art so fat-witted, with drinking of
old sack and unbuttoning thee after supper and
sleeping upon benches after noon, that thou hast
forgotten to demand that truly which thou wouldst
truly know. What a devil hast thou to do with the time
of the day? Unless hours were cups of sack and minutes
capons and clocks the tongues of bawds and dials the
signs of leaping-houses and the blessed sun himself a
fair hot wench in flame-coloured taffeta, I see no
reason why thou shouldst be so superfluous to demand
the time of the day.

FALSTAFF Indeed, you come near me now, Hal; for we
that take purses go by the moon and the seven stars,
and not "by Phoebus, he, that wandering
knight so fair".
And, I prithee, sweet wag, when thou art king, as, God
save thy grace,—majesty I should say, for grace thou
wilt have none,—

PRINCE HENRY What, none?

FALSTAFF No, by my troth, not so much as will serve to
prologue to an egg and butter.

PRINCE HENRY Well, how then? Come,
roundly, roundly.

FALSTAFF Marry, then, sweet wag, when thou art king,
let not us that are squires of the night's body be called
thieves of the day's beauty: let us be Diana's foresters,
gentlemen of the shade, minions of the moon; and let
men say we be men of good government, being
governed, as the sea is, by our noble and chaste mistress
the moon, under whose countenance we steal.

PRINCE HENRY Thou sayest well, and it holds well too;
for the fortune of us that are the moon's men doth ebb
and flow like the sea, being governed, as the sea is, by
the moon. As, for proof, now: a purse of gold most
resolutely snatched on Monday night and most
dissolutely spent on Tuesday morning; got with
swearing "Lay by" and spent with crying "Bring in;"
now in as low an ebb as the foot of the ladder and by
and by in as high a flow as the ridge of the gallows.

FALSTAFF By the Lord, thou sayest true, lad. And is not my hostess of the tavern a most sweet wench?

PRINCE HENRY As the honey of Hybla, my old lad of the castle. And is not a buff jerkin a most sweet robe of durance?

FALSTAFF How now, how now, mad wag! What, in thy quips and thy quiddities? What a plague have I to do with a buff jerkin?

PRINCE HENRY Why, what a pox have I to do with my hostess of the tavern?

FALSTAFF Well, thou hast called her to a reckoning many a time and oft.

PRINCE HENRY Did I ever call for thee to pay thy part?

FALSTAFF No; I'll give thee thy due, thou hast paid all there.

PRINCE HENRY Yea, and elsewhere, so far as my coin would stretch; and where it would not, I have used my credit.

FALSTAFF Yea, and so used it that were it not here apparent that thou art heir apparent—But, I prithee, sweet wag, shall there be gallows standing in England when thou art king? And resolution thus fobbed as it is with the rusty curb of old father antic the law? Do not thou, when thou art king, hang a thief.

PRINCE HENRY No; thou shalt.

FALSTAFF Shall I? O rare! By the Lord, I'll be a brave judge.

PRINCE HENRY Thou judgest false already: I mean, thou shalt have the hanging of the thieves and so become a rare hangman.

FALSTAFF Well, Hal, well; and in some sort it jumps with my humour as well as waiting in the court, I can tell you.

PRINCE HENRY For obtaining of suits?

FALSTAFF Yea, for obtaining of suits, whereof the hangman hath no lean wardrobe. 'Sblood, I am as melancholy as a gib cat or a lugged bear.

PRINCE HENRY Or an old lion, or a lover's lute.

FALSTAFF Yea, or the drone of a Lincolnshire bagpipe.

PRINCE HENRY What sayest thou to a hare, or the melancholy of Moor-ditch?

FALSTAFF Thou hast the most unsavoury similes and art indeed the most comparative, rascalliest, sweet young prince. But, Hal, I prithee, trouble me no more with vanity. I would to God thou and I knew where a commodity of good names were to be bought. An old lord of the council rated me the other day in the street about you, sir, but I marked him not; and yet he talked very wisely, but I regarded him not; and yet he talked wisely, and in the street too.

PRINCE HENRY Thou didst well; for wisdom cries out in the streets, and no man regards it.

FALSTAFF O, thou hast damnable iteration and art indeed able to corrupt a saint. Thou hast done much harm upon me, Hal; God forgive thee for it! Before I knew thee, Hal, I knew nothing; and now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked. I must give over this life, and I will give it over: by the Lord, and I do not, I am a villain: I'll be damned for never a king's son in Christendom.

PRINCE HENRY Where shall we take a purse tomorrow, Jack?

FALSTAFF 'Zounds, where thou wilt, lad; I'll make one; an I do not, call me villain and baffle me.

PRINCE HENRY I see a good amendment of life in thee; from praying to purse-taking.

FALSTAFF Why, Hal, 'tis my vocation, Hal; 'tis no sin for a man to labour in his vocation.

[Enter POINS]

Poins! Now shall we know if Gadshill have set a match. O, if men were to be saved by merit, what hole in hell were hot enough for him? This is the most omnipotent villain that ever cried "Stand" to a true man.

PRINCE HENRY Good morrow, Ned.

POINS Good morrow, sweet Hal. What says Monsieur Remorse? What says Sir John Sack and Sugar? Jack! How agrees the devil and thee about thy soul, that thou soldest him on Good-Friday last for a cup of Madeira and a cold capon's leg?

PRINCE HENRY Sir John stands to his word, the devil shall have his bargain; for he was never yet a breaker of proverbs: he will give the devil his due.

POINS Then art thou damned for keeping thy word with the devil.

PRINCE HENRY Else he had been damned for cozening the devil.

POINS But, my lads, my lads, to-morrow morning, by four o'clock, early at Gadshill! There are pilgrims going to Canterbury with rich offerings, and traders riding to London with fat purses: I have vizards for you all; you have horses for yourselves: Gadshill lies to-night in Rochester: I have bespoke supper to-morrow night in Eastcheap: we may do it as secure as sleep. If you will go, I will stuff your purses full of crowns; if you will not, tarry at home and be hanged.

FALSTAFF Hear ye, Yedward; if I tarry at home and go not, I'll hang you for going.

POINS You will, chops?

FALSTAFF Hal, wilt thou make one?

PRINCE HENRY Who, I rob? I a thief? Not I, by my faith.

FALSTAFF There's neither honesty, manhood, nor good fellowship in thee, nor thou camest not of the blood royal, if thou darrest not stand for ten shillings.

PRINCE HENRY Well then, once in my days I'll be a madcap.

FALSTAFF Why, that's well said.

PRINCE HENRY Well, come what will, I'll tarry at home.

FALSTAFF By the Lord, I'll be a traitor then, when thou art king.

PRINCE HENRY I care not.

POINS Sir John, I prithee, leave the prince and me alone: I will lay him down such reasons for this adventure that he shall go.

FALSTAFF Well, God give thee the spirit of persuasion and him the ears of profiting, that what thou speakest may move and what he hears may be believed, that the true prince may, for recreation sake, prove a false thief; for the poor abuses of the time want countenance. Farewell: you shall find me in Eastcheap.

PRINCE HENRY Farewell, thou latter spring! Farewell, All-hallow summer!

[Exit Falstaff]

POINS Now, my good sweet honey lord, ride with us to-morrow: I have a jest to execute that I cannot manage alone. Falstaff, Bardolph, Peto and Gadshill shall rob those men that we have already waylaid: yourself and I will not be there; and when they have the booty, if you and I do not rob them, cut this head off from my shoulders.

PRINCE HENRY How shall we part with them in setting forth?

POINS Why, we will set forth before or after them, and appoint them a place of meeting, wherein it is at our pleasure to fail, and then will they adventure upon the exploit themselves; which they shall have no sooner achieved, but we'll set upon them.

PRINCE HENRY Yea, but 'tis like that they will know us by our horses, by our habits and by every other appointment, to be ourselves.

POINS Tut! Our horses they shall not see: I'll tie them in the wood; our vizards we will change after we leave them: and, sirrah, I have cases of buckram for the nonce, to immask our noted outward garments.

PRINCE HENRY Yea, but I doubt they will be too hard for us.

POINS Well, for two of them, I know them to be as true-bred cowards as ever turned back; and for the third, if he fight longer than he sees reason, I'll forswear arms. The virtue of this jest will be, the incomprehensible lies that this same fat rogue will tell us when we meet at supper: how thirty, at least, he fought with; what wards, what blows, what extremities he endured; and in the reproof of this lies the jest.

PRINCE HENRY Well, I'll go with thee: provide us all things necessary and meet me to-morrow night in Eastcheap; there I'll sup. Farewell.

POINS Farewell, my lord.

[Exit Poins]

PRINCE HENRY I know you all, and will awhile uphold
The unyoked humour of your idleness:
Yet herein will I imitate the sun,
Who doth permit the base contagious clouds
To smother up his beauty from the world,
That, when he please again to be himself,
Being wanted, he may be more wonder'd at,
By breaking through the foul and ugly mists
Of vapours that did seem to strangle him.
If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work;
But when they seldom come, they wish'd for come,
And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents.
So, when this loose behavior I throw off
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;
And like bright metal on a sullen ground,

My reformation, glittering o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.
I'll so offend, to make offence a skill;
Redeeming time when men think least I will.

[Exit]

SCENE III

London. The palace.

[Enter the KING, NORTHUMBERLAND,
WORCESTER, HOTSPUR, SIR WALTER
BLUNT, with others]

KING HENRY IV My blood hath been too cold
and temperate,
Unapt to stir at these indignities,
And you have found me; for accordingly
You tread upon my patience: but be sure
I will from henceforth rather be myself,
Mighty and to be fear'd, than my condition;
Which hath been smooth as oil, soft as young down,
And therefore lost that title of respect
Which the proud soul ne'er pays but to the proud.

EARL OF WORCESTER Our house, my sovereign liege,
little deserves
The scourge of greatness to be used on it;
And that same greatness too which our own hands
Have help to make so portly.

NORTHUMBERLAND My lord.—

KING HENRY IV Worcester, get thee gone; for I do see
Danger and disobedience in thine eye:
O, sir, your presence is too bold and peremptory,
And majesty might never yet endure
The moody frontier of a servant brow.
You have good leave to leave us: when we need
Your use and counsel, we shall send for you.

[Exit Worcester]

You were about to speak.

[To North]

NORTHUMBERLAND Yea, my good lord.
Those prisoners in your highness' name demanded,
Which Harry Percy here at Holmedon took,
Were, as he says, not with such strength denied
As is deliver'd to your majesty:
Either envy, therefore, or misprison
Is guilty of this fault and not my son.

HOTSPUR My liege, I did deny no prisoners.
But I remember, when the fight was done,
When I was dry with rage and extreme toil,
Breathless and faint, leaning upon my sword,
Came there a certain lord, neat, and trimly dress'd,
Fresh as a bridegroom; and his chin new reap'd
Show'd like a stubble-land at harvest-home;
He was perfumed like a milliner;
And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he held
A pouncet-box, which ever and anon
He gave his nose and took't away again;
Who therewith angry, when it next came there,
Took it in snuff; and still he smiled and talk'd,
And as the soldiers bore dead bodies by,
He call'd themuntaught knaves, unmannerly,
To bring a slovenly unhandsome corse
Betwixt the wind and his nobility.
With many holiday and lady terms
He question'd me; amongst the rest, demanded
My prisoners in your majesty's behalf.
I then, all smarting with my wounds being cold,
To be so pester'd with a popinjay,
Out of my grief and my impatience,
Answer'd neglectingly I know not what,
He should or he should not; for he made me mad
To see him shine so brisk and smell so sweet
And talk so like a waiting-gentlewoman
Of guns and drums and wounds,
—God save the mark!—
And telling me the sovereign'st thing on earth
Was parmaceti for an inward bruise;
And that it was great pity, so it was,
This villanous salt-petre should be digg'd
Out of the bowels of the harmless earth,
Which many a good tall fellow had destroy'd
So cowardly; and but for these vile guns,
He would himself have been a soldier.
This bald unjointed chat of his, my lord,
I answer'd indirectly, as I said;
And I beseech you, let not his report
Come current for an accusation
Betwixt my love and your high majesty.

SIR WALTER BLUNT The circumstance consider'd, good
my lord,
Whate'er Lord Harry Percy then had said
To such a person and in such a place,
At such a time, with all the rest retold,
May reasonably die and never rise
To do him wrong or any way impeach
What then he said, so he unsay it now.

KING HENRY IV Why, yet he doth deny his prisoners,
But with proviso and exception,

That we at our own charge shall ransom straight
His brother-in-law, the foolish Mortimer;
Who, on my soul, hath wilfully betray'd
The lives of those that he did lead to fight
Against that great magician, damn'd Glendower,
Whose daughter, as we hear, the Earl of March
Hath lately married. Shall our coffers, then,
Be emptied to redeem a traitor home?
Shall we but treason? And indent with fears,
When they have lost and forfeited themselves?
No, on the barren mountains let him starve;
For I shall never hold that man my friend
Whose tongue shall ask me for one penny cost
To ransom home revolted Mortimer.

HOTSPUR Revolted Mortimer!
He never did fall off, my sovereign liege,
But by the chance of war; to prove that true
Needs no more but one tongue for all those wounds,
Those mouthed wounds, which valiantly he took
When on the gentle Severn's sedgy bank,
In single opposition, hand to hand,
He did confound the best part of an hour
In changing hardiment with great Glendower:
Three times they breathed and three times did
they drink,
Upon agreement, of swift Severn's flood;
Who then, affrighted with their bloody looks,
Ran fearfully among the trembling reeds,
And hid his crisp head in the hollow bank,
Bloodstained with these valiant combatants.
Never did base and rotten policy
Colour her working with such deadly wounds;
Nor could the noble Mortimer
Receive so many, and all willingly:
Then let not him be slander'd with revolt.

KING HENRY IV Thou dost belie him, Percy, thou dost
believe him;
He never did encounter with Glendower:
I tell thee,
He durst as well have met the devil alone
As Owen Glendower for an enemy.
Art thou not ashamed? But, sirrah, henceforth
Let me not hear you speak of Mortimer:
Send me your prisoners with the speediest means,
Or you shall hear in such a kind from me
As will displease you. My Lord Northumberland,
We licence your departure with your son.
Send us your prisoners, or you will hear of it.

[*Exeunt King Henry, Blunt, and train*]

HOTSPUR An if the devil come and roar for them,
I will not send them: I will after straight

And tell him so; for I will ease my heart,
Albeit I make a hazard of my head.

NORTHUMBERLAND What, drunk with choler? Stay and
pause awhile:
Here comes your uncle.

[*Re-enter WORCESTER*]

HOTSPUR Speak of Mortimer!
'Zounds, I will speak of him; and let my soul
Want mercy, if I do not join with him:
Yea, on his part I'll empty all these veins,
And shed my dear blood drop by drop in the dust,
But I will lift the down-trod Mortimer
As high in the air as this unthankful king,
As this ingrate and canker'd Bolingbroke.

NORTHUMBERLAND Brother, the king hath made your
nephew mad.

EARL OF WORCESTER Who struck this heat up after I
was gone?

HOTSPUR He will, forsooth, have all my prisoners;
And when I urged the ransom once again
Of my wife's brother, then his cheek look'd pale,
And on my face he turn'd an eye of death,
Trembling even at the name of Mortimer.

EARL OF WORCESTER I cannot blame him: was not
he proclaim'd
By Richard that dead is the next of blood?

NORTHUMBERLAND He was; I heard the proclamation:
And then it was when the unhappy king,
—Whose wrongs in us God pardon!—Did set forth
Upon his Irish expedition;
From whence he intercepted did return
To be deposed and shortly murdered.

EARL OF WORCESTER And for whose death we in the
world's wide mouth
Live scandalized and foully spoken of.

HOTSPUR But soft, I pray you; did King Richard then
Proclaim my brother Edmund Mortimer
Heir to the crown?

NORTHUMBERLAND He did; myself did hear it.

HOTSPUR Nay, then I cannot blame his cousin king,
That wished him on the barren mountains starve.
But shall it be that you, that set the crown
Upon the head of this forgetful man
And for his sake wear the detested blot
Of murderous subornation, shall it be,

That you a world of curses undergo,
 Being the agents, or base second means,
 The cords, the ladder, or the hangman rather?
 O, pardon me that I descend so low,
 To show the line and the predicament
 Wherein you range under this subtle king;
 Shall it for shame be spoken in these days,
 Or fill up chronicles in time to come,
 That men of your nobility and power
 Did gage them both in an unjust behalf,
 As both of you—God pardon it!—Have done,
 To put down Richard, that sweet lovely rose,
 An plant this thorn, this canker, Bolingbroke?
 And shall it in more shame be further spoken,
 That you are fool'd, discarded and shook off
 By him for whom these shames ye underwent?
 No; yet time serves wherein you may redeem
 Your banish'd honours and restore yourselves
 Into the good thoughts of the world again,
 Revenge the jeering and disdain'd contempt
 Of this proud king, who studies day and night
 To answer all the debt he owes to you
 Even with the bloody payment of your deaths:
 Therefore, I say—

EARL OF WORCESTER Peace, cousin, say no more:
 And now I will unclasp a secret book,
 And to your quick-conceiving discontents
 I'll read you matter deep and dangerous,
 As full of peril and adventurous spirit
 As to o'er-walk a current roaring loud
 On the unsteadfast footing of a spear.

HOTSPUR If he fall in, good night! Or sink or swim:
 Send danger from the east unto the west,
 So honour cross it from the north to south,
 And let them grapple: O, the blood more stirs
 To rouse a lion than to start a hare!

NORTHUMBERLAND Imagination of some great exploit
 Drives him beyond the bounds of patience.

HOTSPUR By heaven, methinks it were an easy leap,
 To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon,
 Or dive into the bottom of the deep,
 Where fathom-line could never touch the ground,
 And pluck up drowned honour by the locks;
 So he that doth redeem her thence might wear
 Without corrival, all her dignities:
 But out upon this half-faced fellowship!

EARL OF WORCESTER He apprehends a world of
 figures here,
 But not the form of what he should attend.
 Good cousin, give me audience for a while.

HOTSPUR I cry you mercy.

EARL OF WORCESTER Those same noble Scots
 That are your prisoners,—

HOTSPUR I'll keep them all;
 By God, he shall not have a Scot of them;
 No, if a Scot would save his soul, he shall not:
 I'll keep them, by this hand.

EARL OF WORCESTER You start away
 And lend no ear unto my purposes.
 Those prisoners you shall keep.

HOTSPUR Nay, I will. That's flat!
 He said he would not ransom Mortimer;
 Forbad my tongue to speak of Mortimer;
 But I will find him when he lies asleep,
 And in his ear I'll holla "Mortimer!"
 Nay, I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak
 Nothing but "Mortimer," and give it him
 To keep his anger still in motion.

EARL OF WORCESTER Hear you, cousin; a word.

HOTSPUR All studies here I solemnly defy,
 Save how to gall and pinch this Bolingbroke:
 And that same sword-and-buckler Prince of Wales,
 But that I think his father loves him not
 And would be glad he met with some mischance,
 I would have him poison'd with a pot of ale.

EARL OF WORCESTER Farewell, kinsman: I'll talk to you
 When you are better temper'd to attend.

NORTHUMBERLAND Why, what a wasp-stung and
 impatient fool
 Art thou to break into this woman's mood,
 Tying thine ear to no tongue but thine own!

HOTSPUR Why, look you, I am whipp'd and scourged
 with rods,
 Nettled and stung with pismires, when I hear
 Of this vile politician, Bolingbroke.
 In Richard's time,—what do you call the place?—
 A plague upon it, it is in Gloucestershire;
 'Twas where the madcap duke his uncle kept,
 His uncle York; where I first bow'd my knee
 Unto this king of smiles, this Bolingbroke,—
 'Sblood!—When you and he came back
 from Ravenspurgh.

NORTHUMBERLAND At Berkley castle.

HOTSPUR You say true:
 Why, what a candy deal of courtesy
 This fawning greyhound then did proffer me!

Look, "when his infant fortune came to age,"
And "gentle Harry Percy," and "kind cousin;"
O, the devil take such cozeners! God forgive me!
Good uncle, tell your tale; I have done.

EARL OF WORCESTER Nay, if you have not, to it again;
We will stay your leisure.

HOTSPUR I have done, i' faith.

EARL OF WORCESTER Then once more to your
Scottish prisoners.
Deliver them up without their ransom straight,
And make the Douglas' son your only mean
For powers in Scotland; which, for divers reasons
Which I shall send you written, be assured,
Will easily be granted. You, my lord,

[To Northumberland]

Your son in Scotland being thus employ'd,
Shall secretly into the bosom creep
Of that same noble prelate, well beloved,
The archbishop.

HOTSPUR Of York, is it not?

EARL OF WORCESTER True; who bears hard
His brother's death at Bristol, the Lord Scroop.
I speak not this in estimation,
As what I think might be, but what I know
Is ruminated, plotted and set down,
And only stays but to behold the face
Of that occasion that shall bring it on.

HOTSPUR I smell it: upon my life, it will do well.

NORTHUMBERLAND Before the game is afoot, thou still
let'st slip.

HOTSPUR Why, it cannot choose but be a noble plot;
And then the power of Scotland and of York,
To join with Mortimer, ha?

EARL OF WORCESTER And so they shall.

HOTSPUR In faith, it is exceedingly well aim'd.

EARL OF WORCESTER And 'tis no little reason bids
us speed,
To save our heads by raising of a head;
For, bear ourselves as even as we can,
The king will always think him in our debt,
And think we think ourselves unsatisfied,
Till he hath found a time to pay us home:
And see already how he doth begin
To make us strangers to his looks of love.

HOTSPUR He does, he does: we'll be revenged on him.

EARL OF WORCESTER Cousin, farewell: no further go
in this
Than I by letters shall direct your course.
When time is ripe, which will be suddenly,
I'll steal to Glendower and Lord Mortimer;
Where you and Douglas and our powers at once,
As I will fashion it, shall happily meet,
To bear our fortunes in our own strong arms,
Which now we hold at much uncertainty.

NORTHUMBERLAND Farewell, good brother: we shall
thrive, I trust.

HOTSPUR Uncle, Adieu: O, let the hours be short
Till fields and blows and groans applaud our sport!

[Exeunt]



ACT II

SCENE I

Rochester. An inn yard.

[Enter a Carrier with a lantern in his hand]

FIRST CARRIER Heigh-ho! An it be not four by the day,
I'll be hanged: Charles' wain is over the
new chimney, and yet our horse not packed.
What, ostler!

OSTLER *[Within]* Anon, anon.

FIRST CARRIER I prithee, Tom, beat Cut's saddle, put a
few flocks in the point; poor jade, is wrung in the
withers out of all cess.

[Enter another Carrier]

SECOND CARRIER Peas and beans are as dank here as a
dog, and that is the next way to give poor jades the bots:
this house is turned upside down since
Robin Ostler died.

FIRST CARRIER Poor fellow, never joyed since the price of oats rose; it was the death of him.

SECOND CARRIER I think this be the most villanous house in all London road for fleas: I am stung like a tench.

FIRST CARRIER Like a tench! By the mass, there is ne'er a king christen could be better bit than I have been since the first cock.

SECOND CARRIER Why, they will allow us ne'er a jordan, and then we leak in your chimney; and your chamber-lie breeds fleas like a loach.

FIRST CARRIER What, ostler! Come away and be hanged!

SECOND CARRIER I have a gammon of bacon and two razors of ginger, to be delivered as far as Charing Cross.

FIRST CARRIER God's body! The turkeys in my pannier are quite starved. What, ostler! A plague on thee! Hast thou never an eye in thy head? Canst not hear? An 'twere not as good deed as drink, to break the pate on thee, I am a very villain. Come, and be hanged! hast thou no faith in thee?

[Enter *GADSHILL*]

GADSHILL Good morrow, carriers. What's o'clock?

FIRST CARRIER I think it be two o'clock.

GADSHILL I pray thee lend me thy lantern, to see my gelding in the stable.

FIRST CARRIER Nay, by God, soft; I know a trick worth two of that, i' faith.

GADSHILL I pray thee, lend me thine.

SECOND CARRIER Ay, when? Can'st tell? Lend me thy lantern, quoth he? Marry, I'll see thee hanged first.

GADSHILL Sirrah carrier, what time do you mean to come to London?

SECOND CARRIER Time enough to go to bed with a candle, I warrant thee. Come, neighbour Mugs, we'll call up the gentleman: they will along with company, for they have great charge.

[*Exeunt carriers*]

GADSHILL What, ho! chamberlain!

CHAMBERLAIN [*Within*] At hand, quoth pick-purse.

GADSHILL That's even as fair as—at hand, quoth the chamberlain; for thou variest no more from picking of purses than giving direction doth from labouring; thou layest the plot how.

[*Enter Chamberlain*]

CHAMBERLAIN Good morrow, Master Gadshill. It holds current that I told you yesternight: there's a franklin in the wild of Kent hath brought three hundred marks with him in gold: I heard him tell it to one of his company last night at supper; a kind of auditor; one that hath abundance of charge too, God knows what. They are up already, and call for eggs and butter; they will away presently.

GADSHILL Sirrah, if they meet not with Saint Nicholas' clerks, I'll give thee this neck.

CHAMBERLAIN No, I'll none of it: I pray thee keep that for the hangman; for I know thou worshippest St. Nicholas as truly as a man of falsehood may.

GADSHILL What talkest thou to me of the hangman? If I hang, I'll make a fat pair of gallows; for if I hang, old Sir John hangs with me, and thou knowest he is no starveling. Tut! There are other Trojans that thou dreamest not of, the which for sport sake are content to do the profession some grace; that would, if matters should be looked into, for their own credit sake, make all whole. I am joined with no foot-land rakers, no long-staff sixpenny strikers, none of these mad mustachio purple-hued malt-worms; but with nobility and tranquillity, burgomasters and great oneyers, such as can hold in, such as will strike sooner than speak, and speak sooner than drink, and drink sooner than pray: and yet, zounds, I lie; for they pray continually to their saint, the commonwealth; or rather, not pray to her, but prey on her, for they ride up and down on her and make her their boots.

CHAMBERLAIN What, the commonwealth their boots? Will she hold out water in foul way?

GADSHILL She will, she will; justice hath liquored her. We steal as in a castle, cocksure; we have the receipt of fern-seed, we walk invisible.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, by my faith, I think you are more beholding to the night than to fern-seed for your walking invisible.

GADSHILL Give me thy hand: thou shalt have a share in our purchase, as I am a true man.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, rather let me have it, as you are a false thief.

GADSHILL Go to; homo' is a common name to all men. Bid the ostler bring my gelding out of the stable. Farewell, you muddy knave.

[Exeunt]

SCENE II

The highway, near Gadshill.

[Enter PRINCE HENRY and POINS]

POINS Come, shelter, shelter: I have removed Falstaff's horse, and he frets like a gummed velvet.

PRINCE HENRY Stand close.

[Enter FALSTAFF]

FALSTAFF Pains! Pains, and be hanged! Pains!

PRINCE HENRY Peace, ye fat-kidneyed rascal! What a brawling dost thou keep!

FALSTAFF Where's Pains, Hal?

PRINCE HENRY He is walked up to the top of the hill: I'll go seek him.

FALSTAFF I am accursed to rob in that thief's company: the rascal hath removed my horse, and tied him I know not where. If I travel but four foot by the squier further afoot, I shall break my wind. Well, I doubt not but to die a fair death for all this, if I 'scape hanging for killing that rogue. I have forsworn his company hourly any time this two and twenty years, and yet I am bewitched with the rogue's company. If the rascal hath not given me medicines to make me love him, I'll be hanged; it could not be else: I have drunk medicines. Pains! Hal! a plague upon you both! Bardolph! Peto! I'll starve ere I'll rob a foot further. An 'twere not as good a deed as drink, to turn true man and to leave these rogues, I am the veriest varlet that ever chewed with a tooth. Eight yards of uneven ground is threescore and ten miles afoot with me; and the stony-hearted villains know it well enough: a plague upon it when thieves cannot be true one to another!

[They whistle]

Whew! A plague upon you all! Give me my horse, you rogues; give me my horse, and be hanged!

PRINCE HENRY Peace, ye fat-guts! lie down; lay thine ear close to the ground and list if thou canst hear the tread of travellers.

FALSTAFF Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down? 'Sblood, I'll not bear mine own flesh so far afoot again for all the coin in thy father's exchequer. What a plague mean ye to colt me thus?

PRINCE HENRY Thou liest; thou art not colted, thou art uncolted.

FALSTAFF I prithee, good Prince Hal, help me to my horse, good king's son.

PRINCE HENRY Out, ye rogue! shall I be your ostler?

FALSTAFF Go, hang thyself in thine own heir-apparent garters! If I be ta'en, I'll peach for this. An I have not ballads made on you all and sung to filthy tunes, let a cup of sack be my poison: when a jest is so forward, and afoot too! I hate it.

[Enter GADSHILL, BARDOLPH and PETO]

GADSHILL Stand.

FALSTAFF So I do, against my will.

POINS O, 'tis our setter: I know his voice. Bardolph, what news?

BARDOLPH Case ye, case ye; on with your vizards: there's money of the king's coming down the hill; 'tis going to the king's exchequer.

FALSTAFF You lie, ye rogue; 'tis going to the king's tavern.

GADSHILL There's enough to make us all.

FALSTAFF To be hanged.

PRINCE HENRY Sirs, you four shall front them in the narrow lane; Ned Pains and I will walk lower: if they 'scape from your encounter, then they light on us.

PETO How many be there of them?

GADSHILL Some eight or ten.

FALSTAFF 'Zounds, will they not rob us?

PRINCE HENRY What, a coward, Sir John Paunch?

FALSTAFF Indeed, I am not John of Gaunt, your grandfather; but yet no coward, Hal.

PRINCE HENRY Well, we leave that to the proof.

POINS Sirrah Jack, thy horse stands behind the hedge: when thou needest him, there thou shalt find him. Farewell, and stand fast.

FALSTAFF Now cannot I strike him, if I should be hanged.

PRINCE HENRY Ned, where are our disguises?

POINS Here, hard by: stand close.

[*Exeunt PRINCE HENRY and POINS*]

FALSTAFF Now, my masters, happy man be his dole, say I: every man to his business.

[*Enter the Travellers*]

FIRST TRAVELLER Come, neighbour: the boy shall lead our horses down the hill; we'll walk afoot awhile, and ease our legs.

THIEVES Stand!

TRAVELLERS Jesus bless us!

FALSTAFF Strike; down with them; cut the villains' throats! Ah! Whoreson caterpillars! Bacon-fed knaves! They hate us youth! Own with them: fleece them.

TRAVELLERS O, we are undone, both we and ours for ever!

FALSTAFF Hang ye, gorbellied knaves, are ye undone? No, ye fat chuffs: I would your store were here! On, bacons, on! What, ye knaves! Young men must live. You are Grand-jurors, are ye? We'll jure ye, 'faith.

[*Here they rob them and bind them. Exeunt*]

[*Re-enter PRINCE HENRY and POINS*]

PRINCE HENRY The thieves have bound the true men. Now could thou and I rob the thieves and go merrily to London, it would be argument for a week, laughter for a month and a good jest for ever.

POINS Stand close; I hear them coming.

[*Enter the Thieves again*]

FALSTAFF Come, my masters, let us share, and then to horse before day. An the Prince and Poins be not two arrant cowards, there's no equity stirring: there's no more valour in that Poins than in a wild-duck.

PRINCE HENRY Your money!

POINS Villains!

[*As they are sharing, the Prince and Poins set upon them; they all run away; and Falstaff, after a blow*

or two, runs away too, leaving the booty behind them]

PRINCE HENRY Got with much ease. Now merrily to horse: The thieves are all scatter'd and possess'd with fear So strongly that they dare not meet each other; Each takes his fellow for an officer. Away, good Ned. Falstaff sweats to death, And lards the lean earth as he walks along: Were 't not for laughing, I should pity him.

POINS How the rogue roar'd!

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE III
Warkworth castle.

[*Enter HOTSPUR, solus, reading a letter*]

HOTSPUR "But for mine own part, my lord, I could be well contented to be there, in respect of the love I bear your house." He could be contented: why is he not, then? In respect of the love he bears our house: he shows in this, he loves his own barn better than he loves our house. Let me see some more. "The purpose you undertake is dangerous;"—why, that's certain: 'tis dangerous to take a cold, to sleep, to drink; but I tell you, my lord fool, out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety. "The purpose you undertake is dangerous; the friends you have named uncertain; the time itself unsorted; and your whole plot too light for the counterpoise of so great an opposition." Say you so, say you so? I say unto you again, you are a shallow cowardly hind, and you lie. What a lack-brain is this! By the Lord, our plot is a good plot as ever was laid; our friends true and constant: a good plot, good friends, and full of expectation; an excellent plot, very good friends. What a frosty-spirited rogue is this! Why, my lord of York commends the plot and the general course of action. "Zounds, an I were now by this rascal, I could brain him with his lady's fan. Is there not my father, my uncle and myself? Lord Edmund Mortimer, My lord of York and Owen Glendower? Is there not besides the Douglas? Have I not all their letters to meet me in arms by the ninth of the next month? And are they not some of them set forward already? What a pagan rascal is this! An infidel! Ha! You shall see now in very sincerity of fear and cold heart, will he to the king and lay open all our proceedings. O, I could divide myself and go to buffets, for moving such a dish of skim milk with so honourable an action! Hang him! Let him tell the king: we are prepared. I will set forward to-night.

[*Enter LADY PERCY*]

How now, Kate! I must leave you within these two hours.

LADY PERCY O, my good lord, why are you thus alone?
For what offence have I this fortnight been
A banish'd woman from my Harry's bed?
Tell me, sweet lord, what is't that takes from thee
Thy stomach, pleasure and thy golden sleep?
Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the earth,
And start so often when thou sit'st alone?
Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy cheeks;
And given my treasures and my rights of thee
To thick-eyed musing and cursed melancholy?
In thy faint slumbers I by thee have watch'd,
And heard thee murmur tales of iron wars;
Speak terms of manage to thy bounding steed;
Cry "Courage! To the field!" And thou hast talk'd
Of sallies and retires, of trenches, tents,
Of palisadoes, frontiers, parapets,
Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin,
Of prisoners' ransom and of soldiers slain,
And all the currents of a heady fight.
Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war
And thus hath so bestir'd thee in thy sleep,
That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow
Like bubbles in a late-disturbed stream;
And in thy face strange motions have appear'd,
Such as we see when men restrain their breath
On some great sudden hest. O, what portents are these?
Some heavy business hath my lord in hand,
And I must know it, else he loves me not.

HOTSPUR What, ho!

[Enter Servant]

Is Gilliams with the packet gone?

SERVANT He is, my lord, an hour ago.

HOTSPUR Hath Butler brought those horses from the sheriff?

SERVANT One horse, my lord, he brought even now.

HOTSPUR What horse? A roan, a crop-ear, is it not?

SERVANT It is, my lord.

HOTSPUR That roan shall by my throne.
Well, I will back him straight: O esperance!
Bid Butler lead him forth into the park.

[Exit Servant]

LADY PERCY But hear you, my lord.

HOTSPUR What say'st thou, my lady?

LADY PERCY What is it carries you away?

HOTSPUR Why, my horse, my love, my horse.

LADY PERCY Out, you mad-headed ape!
A weasel hath not such a deal of spleen
As you are toss'd with. In faith,
I'll know your business, Harry, that I will.
I fear my brother Mortimer doth stir
About his title, and hath sent for you
To line his enterprise: but if you go,—

HOTSPUR So far afoot, I shall be weary, love.

LADY PERCY Come, come, you paraquito, answer me
Directly unto this question that I ask:
In faith, I'll break thy little finger, Harry,
An if thou wilt not tell me all things true.

HOTSPUR Away,

Away, you trifler! Love! I love thee not,
I care not for thee, Kate: this is no world
To play with mamnets and to tilt with lips:
We must have bloody noses and crack'd crowns,
And pass them current too. God's me, my horse!
What say'st thou, Kate? What would'st thou
have with me?

LADY PERCY Do you not love me? Do you not, indeed?
Well, do not then; for since you love me not,
I will not love myself. Do you not love me?
Nay, tell me if you speak in jest or no.

HOTSPUR Come, wilt thou see me ride?

And when I am on horseback, I will swear
I love thee infinitely. But hark you, Kate;
I must not have you henceforth question me
Whither I go, nor reason whereabouts:
Whither I must, I must; and, to conclude,
This evening must I leave you, gentle Kate.
I know you wise, but yet no farther wise
Than Harry Percy's wife: constant you are,
But yet a woman: and for secrecy,
No lady closer; for I well believe
Thou wilt not utter what thou dost not know;
And so far will I trust thee, gentle Kate.

LADY PERCY How! So far?

HOTSPUR Not an inch further. But hark you, Kate:
Whither I go, thither shall you go too;
To-day will I set forth, to-morrow you.
Will this content you, Kate?

LADY PERCY It must of force.

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE IV

The Boar's-Head Tavern, Eastcheap.

[*Enter PRINCE HENRY and POINS*]

PRINCE HENRY Ned, prithee, come out of that fat room, and lend me thy hand to laugh a little.

POINS Where hast been, Hal?

PRINCE HENRY With three or four loggerheads amongst three or four score hogsheads. I have sounded the very base-string of humility. Sirrah, I am sworn brother to a leash of drawers; and can call them all by their christen names, as Tom, Dick, and Francis. They take it already upon their salvation, that though I be but the prince of Wales, yet I am king of courtesy; and tell me flatly I am no proud Jack, like Falstaff, but a Corinthian, a lad of mettle, a good boy, by the Lord, so they call me, and when I am king of England, I shall command all the good lads in Eastcheap. They call drinking deep, dyeing scarlet; and when you breathe in your watering, they cry "hem!" and bid you play it off. To conclude, I am so good a proficient in one quarter of an hour, that I can drink with any tinker in his own language during my life. I tell thee, Ned, thou hast lost much honour, that thou wert not with me in this sweet action. But, sweet Ned,—to sweeten which name of Ned, I give thee this pennyworth of sugar, clapped even now into my hand by an under-skinker, one that never spake other English in his life than "Eight shillings and sixpence" and "You are welcome," with this shrill addition, "Anon, anon, sir! Score a pint of bastard in the Half-Moon," or so. But, Ned, to drive away the time till Falstaff come, I prithee, do thou stand in some by-room, while I question my puny drawer to what end he gave me the sugar; and do thou never leave calling "Francis," that his tale to me may be nothing but "Anon." Step aside, and I'll show thee a precedent.

POINS Francis!

PRINCE HENRY Thou art perfect.

POINS Francis!

[*Exit POINS*]

[*Enter FRANCIS*]

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir. Look down into the Pomgarnet, Ralph.

PRINCE HENRY Come hither, Francis.

FRANCIS My lord?

PRINCE HENRY How long hast thou to serve, Francis?

FRANCIS Forsooth, five years, and as much as to—

POINS [*Within*] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir.

PRINCE HENRY Five year! By'r lady, a long lease for the clinking of pewter. But, Francis, darest thou be so valiant as to play the coward with thy indenture and show it a fair pair of heels and run from it?

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, I'll be sworn upon all the books in England, I could find in my heart.

POINS [*Within*] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir.

PRINCE HENRY How old art thou, Francis?

FRANCIS Let me see—about Michaelmas next I shall be—

POINS [*Within*] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir. Pray stay a little, my lord.

PRINCE HENRY Nay, but hark you, Francis: for the sugar thou gavest me, 'twas a pennyworth, wast't not?

FRANCIS O Lord, I would it had been two!

PRINCE HENRY I will give thee for it a thousand pound: ask me when thou wilt, and thou shalt have it.

POINS [*Within*] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon.

PRINCE HENRY Anon, Francis? No, Francis; but to-morrow, Francis; or, Francis, o' Thursday; or indeed, Francis, when thou wilt. But, Francis!

FRANCIS My lord?

PRINCE HENRY Wilt thou rob this leathern jerkin, crystal-button, not-pated, agate-ring, puke-stocking, caddis-garter, smooth-tongue, Spanish-pouch,—

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, who do you mean?

PRINCE HENRY Why, then, your brown bastard is your only drink; for look you, Francis, your white canvas doublet will sully: in Barbary, sir, it cannot come to so much.

FRANCIS What, sir?

POINS *[Within]* Francis!

PRINCE HENRY Away, you rogue! Dost thou not hear them call?

[Here they both call him; the drawer stands amazed, not knowing which way to go]

[Enter Vintner]

VINTNER What, standest thou still, and hearest such a calling? Look to the guests within.

[Exit Francis]

My lord, old Sir John, with half-a-dozen more, are at the door: shall I let them in?

PRINCE HENRY Let them alone awhile, and then open the door.

[Exit Vintner]

Poins!

[Re-enter POINS]

POINS Anon, anon, sir.

PRINCE HENRY Sirrah, Falstaff and the rest of the thieves are at the door: shall we be merry?

POINS As merry as crickets, my lad. But hark ye; what cunning match have you made with this jest of the drawer? Come, what's the issue?

PRINCE HENRY I am now of all humours that have showed themselves humours since the old days of goodman Adam to the pupil age of this present twelve o'clock at midnight.

[Re-enter FRANCIS]

What's o'clock, Francis?

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir.

[Exit]

PRINCE HENRY That ever this fellow should have fewer words than a parrot, and yet the son of a woman! His industry is upstairs and downstairs; his eloquence the parcel of a reckoning. I am not yet of Percy's mind, the Hotspur of the north; he that kills me some six or seven dozen of Scots at a breakfast, washes his hands, and says to his wife "Fie upon this quiet life! I want work."

"O my sweet Harry," says she, "how many hast thou killed to-day?" "Give my roan horse a drench," says he; and answers "Some fourteen," an hour after; "a trifle, a trifle." I prithee, call in Falstaff: I'll play Percy, and that damned brawn shall play Dame Mortimer his wife. "Rivo!" says the drunkard. Call in ribs, call in tallow.

[Enter FALSTAFF, GADSHILL, BARDOLPH, and PETO; FRANCIS following with wine]

POINS Welcome, Jack: where hast thou been?

FALSTAFF A plague of all cowards, I say, and a vengeance too! Marry, and amen! Give me a cup of sack, boy. Ere I lead this life long, I'll sew nether stocks and mend them and foot them too. A plague of all cowards! Give me a cup of sack, rogue. Is there no virtue extant?

[He drinks]

PRINCE HENRY Didst thou never see Titan kiss a dish of butter? Pitiful-hearted Titan, that melted at the sweet tale of the sun's! If thou didst, then behold that compound.

FALSTAFF You rogue, here's lime in this sack too: there is nothing but roguery to be found in villanous man yet a coward is worse than a cup of sack with lime in it. A villanous coward! Go thy ways, old Jack; die when thou wilt, if manhood, good manhood, be not forgot upon the face of the earth, then am I a shotten herring. There live not three good men unchanged in England; and one of them is fat and grows old: God help the while! Abad world, I say. I would I were a weaver; I could sing psalms or anything. A plague of all cowards, I say still.

PRINCE HENRY How now, wool-sack! What mutter you?

FALSTAFF A king's son! If I do not beat thee out of thy kingdom with a dagger of lath, and drive all thy subjects afore thee like a flock of wild-geese, I'll never wear hair on my face more. You Prince of Wales!

PRINCE HENRY Why, you whoreson round man, what's the matter?

FALSTAFF Are not you a coward? Answer me to that: and Poins there?

POINS 'Zounds, ye fat paunch, an ye call me coward, by the Lord, I'll stab thee.

FALSTAFF I call thee coward! I'll see thee damned ere I call thee coward: but I would give a thousand pound I could run as fast as thou canst. You are straight enough in the shoulders, you care not who sees your back: call

you that backing of your friends? A plague upon such backing! give me them that will face me. Give me a cup of sack: I am a rogue, if I drunk to-day.

PRINCE HENRY O villain! Thy lips are scarce wiped since thou drunkenest last.

FALSTAFF All's one for that.

[He drinks]

A plague of all cowards, still say I.

PRINCE HENRY What's the matter?

FALSTAFF What's the matter! There be four of us here have ta'en a thousand pound this day morning.

PRINCE HENRY Where is it, Jack? Where is it?

FALSTAFF Where is it! Taken from us it is: a hundred upon poor four of us.

PRINCE HENRY What, a hundred, man?

FALSTAFF I am a rogue, if I were not at half-sword with a dozen of them two hours together. I have 'scaped by miracle. I am eight times thrust through the doublet, four through the hose; my buckler cut through and through; my sword hacked like a hand-saw—ecce signum! I never dealt better since I was a man: all would not do. A plague of all cowards! Let them speak: if they speak more or less than truth, they are villains and the sons of darkness.

PRINCE HENRY Speak, sirs; how was it?

GADSHILL We four set upon some dozen—

FALSTAFF Sixteen at least, my lord.

GADSHILL And bound them.

PETO No, no, they were not bound.

FALSTAFF You rogue, they were bound, every man of them; or I am a Jew else, an Ebrew Jew.

GADSHILL As we were sharing, some six or seven fresh men set upon us—

FALSTAFF And unbound the rest, and then come in the other.

PRINCE HENRY What, fought you with them all?

FALSTAFF All! I know not what you call all; but if I fought not with fifty of them, I am a bunch of radish: if there were not two or three and fifty upon poor old Jack, then am I no two-legged creature.

PRINCE HENRY Pray God you have not murdered some of them.

FALSTAFF Nay, that's past praying for: I have peppered two of them; two I am sure I have paid, two rogues in buckram suits. I tell thee what, Hal, if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face, call me horse. Thou knowest my old ward; here I lay and thus I bore my point. Four rogues in buckram let drive at me—

PRINCE HENRY What, four? Thou saidst but two even now.

FALSTAFF Four, Hal; I told thee four.

POINS Ay, ay, he said four.

FALSTAFF These four came all a-front, and mainly thrust at me. I made me no more ado but took all their seven points in my target, thus.

PRINCE HENRY Seven? Why, there were but four even now.

FALSTAFF In buckram?

POINS Ay, four, in buckram suits.

FALSTAFF Seven, by these hilts, or I am a villain else.

PRINCE HENRY Prithee, let him alone; we shall have more anon.

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear me, Hal?

PRINCE HENRY Ay, and mark thee too, Jack.

FALSTAFF Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These nine in buckram that I told thee of—

PRINCE HENRY So, two more already.

FALSTAFF Their points being broken,—

POINS Down fell their hose.

FALSTAFF Began to give me ground: but I followed me close, came in foot and hand; and with a thought seven of the eleven I paid.

PRINCE HENRY O monstrous! Eleven buckram men grown out of two!

FALSTAFF But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten knaves in Kendal green came at my back and let drive at me; for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand.

PRINCE HENRY These lies are like their father that begets them; gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why, thou

clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou
whoreson, obscene, grease tallow-catch,—

FALSTAFF What, art thou mad? Art thou mad? Is not
the truth the truth?

PRINCE HENRY Why, how couldst thou know these men
in Kendal green, when it was so dark thou couldst not
see thy hand? Come, tell us your reason: what sayest
thou to this?

POINS Come, your reason, Jack, your reason.

FALSTAFF What, upon compulsion? 'Zounds, an I were
at the strappado, or all the racks in the world, I would
not tell you on compulsion. Give you a reason on
compulsion! If reasons were as plentiful as
blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon
compulsion, I.

PRINCE HENRY I'll be no longer guilty of this sin; this
sanguine coward, this bed-presser, this
horseback-breaker, this huge hill of flesh,—

FALSTAFF 'Sblood, you starveling, you elf-skin, you
dried neat's tongue, you bull's pizzle, you stock-fish! O
for breath to utter what is like thee! You tailor's-yard,
you sheath, you bowcase; you vile standing-tuck,—

PRINCE HENRY Well, breathe awhile, and then to it
again: and when thou hast tired thyself in base
comparisons, hear me speak but this.

POINS Mark, Jack.

PRINCE HENRY We two saw you four set on four and
bound them, and were masters of their wealth. Mark
now, how a plain tale shall put you down. Then did we
two set on you four; and, with a word, out-faced you
from your prize, and have it; yea, and can show it you
here in the house: and, Falstaff, you carried your guts
away as nimbly, with as quick dexterity, and roared for
mercy and still run and roared, as ever I heard bull-calf.
What a slave art thou, to hack thy sword as thou hast
done, and then say it was in fight! What trick, what
device, what starting-hole, canst thou now find out to
hide thee from this open and apparent shame?

POINS Come, let's hear, Jack; what trick hast thou now?

FALSTAFF By the Lord, I knew ye as well as he that made
ye. Why, hear you, my masters: was it for me to kill the
heir-apparent? Should I turn upon the true prince?
Why, thou knowest I am as valiant as Hercules: but
beware instinct; the lion will not touch the true prince.
Instinct is a great matter; I was now a coward on
instinct. I shall think the better of myself and thee

during my life; I for a valiant lion, and thou for a true
prince. But, by the Lord, lads, I am glad you have the
money. Hostess, clap to the doors: watch to-night, pray
to-morrow. Gallants, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the
titles of good fellowship come to you! What, shall we be
merry? Shall we have a play extempore?

PRINCE HENRY Content; and the argument shall be thy
running away.

FALSTAFF Ah, no more of that, Hal, an thou lovest me!

[*Enter Hostess*]

HOSTESS O Jesu, my lord the prince!

PRINCE HENRY How now, my lady the hostess! What
sayest thou to me?

HOSTESS Marry, my lord, there is a nobleman of the
court at door would speak with you: he says he comes
from your father.

PRINCE HENRY Give him as much as will make him a
royal man, and send him back again to my mother.

FALSTAFF What manner of man is he?

HOSTESS An old man.

FALSTAFF What doth gravity out of his bed at
midnight? Shall I give him his answer?

PRINCE HENRY Prithee, do, Jack.

FALSTAFF 'Faith, and I'll send him packing.

[*Exit FALSTAFF*]

PRINCE HENRY Now, sirs: by'r lady, you fought fair; so
did you, Peto; so did you, Bardolph: you are lions too,
you ran away upon instinct, you will not touch the true
prince; no, fie!

BARDOLPH 'Faith, I ran when I saw others run.

PRINCE HENRY 'Faith, tell me now in earnest, how came
Falstaff's sword so hacked?

PETO Why, he hacked it with his dagger, and said he
would swear truth out of England but he would make
you believe it was done in fight, and persuaded us to do
the like.

BARDOLPH Yea, and to tickle our noses with spear-grass
to make them bleed, and then to beslobber our
garments with it and swear it was the blood of true
men. I did that I did not this seven year before, I
blushed to hear his monstrous devices.

PRINCE HENRY O villain, thou stolest a cup of sack eighteen years ago, and wert taken with the manner, and ever since thou hast blushed extempore. Thou hadst fire and sword on thy side, and yet thou rannest away: what instinct hadst thou for it?

BARDOLPH My lord, do you see these meteors? Do you behold these exhalations?

PRINCE HENRY I do.

BARDOLPH What think you they portend?

PRINCE HENRY Hot livers and cold purses.

BARDOLPH Cholera, my lord, if rightly taken.

PRINCE HENRY No, if rightly taken, halter.

[*Re-enter FALSTAFF*]

Here comes lean Jack, here comes bare-bone.
How now, my sweet creature of bombast!
How long is't ago, Jack, since thou sawest thine own knee?

FALSTAFF My own knee! When I was about thy years, Hal, I was not an eagle's talon in the waist; I could have crept into any alderman's thumb-ring; a plague of sighing and grief! It blows a man up like a bladder. There's villainous news abroad: here was Sir John Bracy from your father; you must to the court in the morning. That same mad fellow of the north, Percy, and he of Wales, that gave Amamon the bastinado and made Lucifer cuckold and swore the devil his true liegeman upon the cross of a Welsh hook—what a plague call you him?

POINS O, Glendower.

FALSTAFF Owen, Owen, the same; and his son-in-law Mortimer, and old Northumberland, and that sprightly Scot of Scots, Douglas, that runs o' horseback up a hill perpendicular, —

PRINCE HENRY He that rides at high speed and with his pistol kills a sparrow flying.

FALSTAFF You have hit it.

PRINCE HENRY So did he never the sparrow.

FALSTAFF Well, that rascal hath good mettle in him; he will not run.

PRINCE HENRY Why, what a rascal art thou then, to praise him so for running!

FALSTAFF O' horseback, ye cuckoo; but afoot he will not budge a foot.

PRINCE HENRY Yes, Jack, upon instinct.

FALSTAFF I grant ye, upon instinct. Well, he is there too, and one Mordake, and a thousand blue-caps more: Worcester is stolen away to-night; thy father's beard is turned white with the news: you may buy land now as cheap as stinking mackerel.

PRINCE HENRY Why, then, it is like, if there come a hot June and this civil buffeting hold, we shall buy maidenheads as they buy hob-nails, by the hundreds.

FALSTAFF By the mass, lad, thou sayest true; it is like we shall have good trading that way. But tell me, Hal, art not thou horrible afeard? Thou being heir-apparent, could the world pick thee out three such enemies again as that fiend Douglas, that spirit Percy, and that devil Glendower? Art thou not horribly afraid? Doth not thy blood thrill at it?

PRINCE HENRY Not a whit, i' faith; I lack some of thy instinct.

FALSTAFF Well, thou wert be horribly chid tomorrow when thou comest to thy father: if thou love me, practise an answer.

PRINCE HENRY Do thou stand for my father, and examine me upon the particulars of my life.

FALSTAFF Shall I? Content: this chair shall be my state, this dagger my sceptre, and this cushion my crown.

PRINCE HENRY Thy state is taken for a joined-stool, thy golden sceptre for a leaden dagger, and thy precious rich crown for a pitiful bald crown!

FALSTAFF Well, an the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou be moved. Give me a cup of sack to make my eyes look red, that it may be thought I have wept; for I must speak in passion, and I will do it in King Cambyses' vein.

PRINCE HENRY Well, here is my leg.

FALSTAFF And here is my speech. Stand aside, nobility.

HOSTESS O Jesu, this is excellent sport, i' faith!

FALSTAFF Weep not, sweet queen; for trickling tears are vain.

HOSTESS O, the father, how he holds his countenance!

FALSTAFF For God's sake, lords, convey my
tristful queen;
For tears do stop the flood-gates of her eyes.

HOSTESS O Jesu, he doth it as like one of these harlotry
players as ever I see!

FALSTAFF Peace, good pint-pot; peace, good
tickle-brain. Harry, I do not only marvel where thou
spendest thy time, but also how thou art accompanied:
for though the camomile, the more it is trodden on the
faster it grows, yet youth, the more it is wasted the
sooner it wears. That thou art my son, I have partly thy
mother's word, partly my own opinion, but chiefly a
villanous trick of thine eye and a foolish-hanging of thy
nether lip, that doth warrant me. If then thou be son to
me, here lies the point; why, being son to me, art thou
so pointed at? Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a
micher and eat blackberries? A question not to be
asked. Shall the sun of England prove a thief and take
purses? A question to be asked. There is a thing, Harry,
which thou hast often heard of and it is known to many
in our land by the name of pitch: this pitch, as ancient
writers do report, doth defile; so doth the company
thou keepest: for, Harry, now I do not speak to thee in
drink but in tears, not in pleasure but in passion, not in
words only, but in woes also: and yet there is a virtuous
man whom I have often noted in thy company, but I
know not his name.

PRINCE HENRY What manner of man, an it like
your majesty?

FALSTAFF A goodly portly man, i' faith, and a
corpulent; of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye and a most
noble carriage; and, as I think, his age some fifty, or,
by'r lady, inclining to three score; and now I remember
me, his name is Falstaff: if that man should be lewdly
given, he deceiveth me; for, Harry, I see virtue in his
looks. If then the tree may be known by the fruit, as the
fruit by the tree, then, peremptorily I speak it, there is
virtue in that Falstaff: him keep with, the rest banish.
And tell me now, thou naughty varlet, tell me, where
hast thou been this month?

PRINCE HENRY Dost thou speak like a king? Do thou
stand for me, and I'll play my father.

FALSTAFF Depose me? If thou dost it half so gravely, so
majestically, both in word and matter, hang me up by
the heels for a rabbit-sucker or a poultier's hare.

PRINCE HENRY Well, here I am set.

FALSTAFF And here I stand: judge, my masters.

PRINCE HENRY Now, Harry, whence come you?

FALSTAFF My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

PRINCE HENRY The complaints I hear of thee
are grievous.

FALSTAFF 'Sblood, my lord, they are false: nay, I'll tickle
you for a young prince, i' faith.

PRINCE HENRY Swearest thou, ungracious boy?
Henceforth ne'er look on me. Thou art violently
carried away from grace: there is a devil haunts thee in
the likeness of an old fat man; a tun of man is thy
companion. Why dost thou converse with that trunk of
humours, that bolting-hutch of beastliness, that
swollen parcel of dropsies, that huge bombard of sack,
that stuffed cloak-bag of guts, that roasted
Manningtree ox with the pudding in his belly, that
reverend vice, that grey iniquity, that father ruffian,
that vanity in years? Wherein is he good, but to taste
sack and drink it? Wherein neat and cleanly, but to
carve a capon and eat it? Wherein cunning, but in craft?
Wherein crafty, but in villany? Wherein villanous, but
in all things? Wherein worthy, but in nothing?

FALSTAFF I would your grace would take me with you:
whom means your grace?

PRINCE HENRY That villanous abominable misleader of
youth, Falstaff, that old white-bearded Satan.

FALSTAFF My lord, the man I know.

PRINCE HENRY I know thou dost.

FALSTAFF But to say I know more harm in him than in
myself, were to say more than I know. That he is old,
the more the pity, his white hairs do witness it; but that
he is, saving your reverence, a whoremaster, that I
utterly deny. If sack and sugar be a fault, God help the
wicked! If to be old and merry be a sin, then many an
old host that I know is damned: if to be fat be to be
hated, then Pharaoh's lean kine are to be loved. No, my
good lord; banish Peto, banish Bardolph, banish Poins:
but for sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack
Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and therefore more
valiant, being, as he is, old Jack Falstaff, banish not him
thy Harry's company, banish not him thy Harry's
company: banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

PRINCE HENRY I do, I will.

[A knocking heard]

[Exeunt Hostess, FRANCIS, and BARDOLPH]

[Re-enter BARDOLPH, running]

BARDOLPH O, my lord, my lord! The sheriff with a most monstrous watch is at the door.

FALSTAFF Out, ye rogue! Play out the play: I have much to say in the behalf of that Falstaff.

[Re-enter the Hostess]

HOSTESS O Jesu, my lord, my lord!

PRINCE HENRY Heigh, heigh! The devil rides upon a fiddlestick: what's the matter?

HOSTESS The sheriff and all the watch are at the door: they are come to search the house. Shall I let them in?

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear, Hal? Never call a true piece of gold a counterfeit: thou art essentially mad, without seeming so.

PRINCE HENRY And thou a natural coward, without instinct.

FALSTAFF I deny your major: if you will deny the sheriff, so; if not, let him enter: if I become not a cart as well as another man, a plague on my bringing up! I hope I shall as soon be strangled with a halter as another.

PRINCE HENRY Go, hide thee behind the arras: the rest walk up above. Now, my masters, for a true face and good conscience.

FALSTAFF Both which I have had: but their date is out, and therefore I'll hide me.

PRINCE HENRY Call in the sheriff.

[Exeunt all except PRINCE HENRY and PETO]

[Enter Sheriff and the Carrier]

Now, master sheriff, what is your will with me?

SHERIFF First, pardon me, my lord. A hue and cry Hath follow'd certain men unto this house.

PRINCE HENRY What men?

SHERIFF One of them is well known, my gracious lord, A gross fat man.

CARRIER As fat as butter.

PRINCE HENRY The man, I do assure you, is not here; For I myself at this time have employ'd him. And, sheriff, I will engage my word to thee That I will, by to-morrow dinner-time,

Send him to answer thee, or any man, For any thing he shall be charged withal: And so let me entreat you leave the house.

SHERIFF I will, my lord. There are two gentlemen Have in this robbery lost three hundred marks.

PRINCE HENRY It may be so: if he have robb'd these men, He shall be answerable; and so farewell.

SHERIFF Good night, my noble lord.

PRINCE HENRY I think it is good morrow, is it not?

SHERIFF Indeed, my lord, I think it be two o'clock.

[Exeunt Sheriff and Carrier]

PRINCE HENRY This oily rascal is known as well as Paul's. Go, call him forth.

PETO Falstaff!—Fast asleep behind the arras, and snorting like a horse.

PRINCE HENRY Hark, how hard he fetches breath. Search his pockets.

[He searcheth his pockets, and findeth certain papers]

What hast thou found?

PETO Nothing but papers, my lord.

PRINCE HENRY Let's see what they be: read them.

PETO *[Reads]* Item, A capon, . . . 2s. 2d.

Item, Sauce, . . . 4d.

Item, Sack, two gallons, 5s. 8d.

Item, Anchovies and sack after supper, 2s. 6d.

Item, Bread, ob.

PRINCE HENRY O monstrous! But one half-penny-worth of bread to this intolerable deal of sack! What there is else, keep close; we'll read it at more advantage: there let him sleep till day. I'll to the court in the morning. We must all to the wars, and thy place shall be honourable. I'll procure this fat rogue a charge of foot; and I know his death will be a march of twelve-score. The money shall be paid back again with advantage. Be with me betimes in the morning; and so, good morrow, Peto.

[Exeunt]

PETO Good morrow, good my lord.

ACT III

SCENE I

Bangor. The ARCHDEACON's house.

[Enter HOTSPUR, WORCESTER, MORTIMER, and GLENDOWER]

MORTIMER These promises are fair, the parties sure,
And our induction full of prosperous hope.

HOTSPUR Lord Mortimer, and cousin Glendower,
Will you sit down?
And uncle Worcester: a plague upon it!
I have forgot the map.

GLENDOWER No, here it is.
Sit, cousin Percy; sit, good cousin Hotspur,
For by that name as oft as Lancaster
Doth speak of you, his cheek looks pale and with
A rising sigh he wisheth you in heaven.

HOTSPUR And you in hell, as oft as he hears Owen
Glendower spoke of.

GLENDOWER I cannot blame him: at my nativity
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,
Of burning cressets; and at my birth
The frame and huge foundation of the earth
Shaked like a coward.

HOTSPUR Why, so it would have done at the same
season, if your mother's cat had but kittened, though
yourself had never been born.

GLENDOWER I say the earth did shake when I was born.

HOTSPUR And I say the earth was not of my mind,
If you suppose as fearing you it shook.

GLENDOWER The heavens were all on fire, the earth
did tremble.

HOTSPUR O, then the earth shook to see the heavens
on fire,
And not in fear of your nativity.
Diseased nature oftentimes breaks forth
In strange eruptions; oft the teeming earth
Is with a kind of colic pinch'd and vex'd
By the imprisoning of unruly wind
Within her womb; which, for enlargement striving,
Shakes the old beldam earth and topples down
Steeple and moss-grown towers. At your birth
Our grandam earth, having this distemperature,
In passion shook.

GLENDOWER Cousin, of many men
I do not bear these crossings. Give me leave

To tell you once again that at my birth
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,
The goats ran from the mountains, and the herds
Were strangely clamorous to the frightened fields.
These signs have mark'd me extraordinary;
And all the courses of my life do show
I am not in the roll of common men.
Where is he living, clipp'd in with the sea
That chides the banks of England, Scotland, Wales,
Which calls me pupil, or hath read to me?
And bring him out that is but woman's son
Can trace me in the tedious ways of art
And hold me pace in deep experiments.

HOTSPUR I think there's no man speaks better Welsh.
I'll to dinner.

MORTIMER Peace, cousin Percy; you will make
him mad.

GLENDOWER I can call spirits from the vasty deep.

HOTSPUR Why, so can I, or so can any man;
But will they come when you do call for them?

GLENDOWER Why, I can teach you, cousin,
to command
The devil.

HOTSPUR And I can teach thee, coz, to shame the devil
By telling truth: tell truth and shame the devil.
If thou have power to raise him, bring him hither,
And I'll be sworn I have power to shame him hence.
O, while you live, tell truth and shame the devil!

MORTIMER Come, come, no more of this
unprofitable chat.

GLENDOWER Three times hath Henry Bolingbroke
made head
Against my power; thrice from the banks of Wye
And sandy-bottom'd Severn have I sent him
Bootless home and weather-beaten back.

HOTSPUR Home without boots, and in foul
weather too!
How 'scapes he agues, in the devil's name?

GLENDOWER Come, here's the map: shall we divide
our right
According to our threefold order ta'en?

MORTIMER The archdeacon hath divided it
Into three limits very equally:
England, from Trent and Severn hitherto,
By south and east is to my part assign'd:

All westward, Wales beyond the Severn shore,
And all the fertile land within that bound,
To Owen Glendower: and, dear coz, to you
The remnant northward, lying off from Trent.
And our indentures tripartite are drawn;
Which being sealed interchangeably,
A business that this night may execute,
To-morrow, cousin Percy, you and I
And my good Lord of Worcester will set forth
To meet your father and the Scottish power,
As is appointed us, at Shrewsbury.
My father Glendower is not ready yet,
Not shall we need his help these fourteen days.
Within that space you may have drawn together
Your tenants, friends and neighbouring gentlemen.

GLENDOWER A shorter time shall send me to you, lords:
And in my conduct shall your ladies come;
From whom you now must steal and take no leave,
For there will be a world of water shed
Upon the parting of your wives and you.

HOTSPUR Methinks my moiety, north from
Burton here,
In quantity equals not one of yours:
See how this river comes me cranking in,
And cuts me from the best of all my land
A huge half-moon, a monstrous cantle out.
I'll have the current in this place damm'd up;
And here the smug and silver Trent shall run
In a new channel, fair and evenly;
It shall not wind with such a deep indent,
To rob me of so rich a bottom here.

GLENDOWER Not wind? It shall, it must; you see it doth.

MORTIMER Yea, but
Mark how he bears his course, and runs me up
With like advantage on the other side;
Gelding the opposed continent as much
As on the other side it takes from you.

EARL OF WORCESTER Yea, but a little charge will trench
him here
And on this north side win this cape of land;
And then he runs straight and even.

HOTSPUR I'll have it so: a little charge will do it.

GLENDOWER I'll not have it alter'd.

HOTSPUR Will not you?

GLENDOWER No, nor you shall not.

HOTSPUR Who shall say me nay?

GLENDOWER Why, that will I.

HOTSPUR Let me not understand you, then; speak it
in Welsh.

GLENDOWER I can speak English, lord, as well as you;
For I was train'd up in the English court;
Where, being but young, I framed to the harp
Many an English ditty lovely well
And gave the tongue a helpful ornament,
A virtue that was never seen in you.

HOTSPUR Marry,
And I am glad of it with all my heart:
I had rather be a kitten and cry mew
Than one of these same metre ballad-mongers;
I had rather hear a brazen canstick turn'd,
Or a dry wheel grate on the axle-tree;
And that would set my teeth nothing on edge,
Nothing so much as mincing poetry:
'Tis like the forced gait of a shuffling nag.

GLENDOWER Come, you shall have Trent turn'd.

HOTSPUR I do not care: I'll give thrice so much land
To any well-deserving friend;
But in the way of bargain, mark ye me,
I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair.
Are the indentures drawn? Shall we be gone?

GLENDOWER The moon shines fair; you may away
by night:
I'll haste the writer and withal
Break with your wives of your departure hence:
I am afraid my daughter will run mad,
So much she doteth on her Mortimer.

[Exit *GLENDOWER*]

MORTIMER Fie, cousin Percy! How you cross my father!

HOTSPUR I cannot choose: sometime he angers me
With telling me of the mouldwarp and the ant,
Of the dreamer Merlin and his prophecies,
And of a dragon and a finless fish,
A clip-wing'd griffin and a moulten raven,
A couching lion and a ramping cat,
And such a deal of skimble-skamble stuff
As puts me from my faith. I tell you what;
He held me last night at least nine hours
In reckoning up the several devils' names
That were his lackeys. I cried "hum," and "well, go to,"
But mark'd him not a word. O, he is as tedious
As a tired horse, a railing wife;
Worse than a smoky house: I had rather live
With cheese and garlic in a windmill, far,

Than feed on cates and have him talk to me
In any summer-house in Christendom.

MORTIMER In faith, he is a worthy gentleman,
Exceedingly well read, and profited
In strange concealments, valiant as a lion
And as wondrous affable and as bountiful
As mines of India. Shall I tell you, cousin?
He holds your temper in a high respect
And curbs himself even of his natural scope
When you come 'cross his humour; faith, he does:
I warrant you, that man is not alive
Might so have tempted him as you have done,
Without the taste of danger and reproof:
But do not use it oft, let me entreat you.

EARL OF WORCESTER In faith, my lord, you are
too wilful-blame;
And since your coming hither have done enough
To put him quite beside his patience.
You must needs learn, lord, to amend this fault:
Though sometimes it show greatness,
courage, blood,—
And that's the dearest grace it renders you,—
Yet oftentimes it doth present harsh rage,
Defect of manners, want of government,
Pride, haughtiness, opinion and disdain:
The least of which haunting a nobleman
Loseth men's hearts and leaves behind a stain
Upon the beauty of all parts besides,
Beguiling them of commendation.

HOTSPUR Well, I am school'd: good manners be
your speed!
Here come our wives, and let us take our leave.

[Re-enter GLENDOWER with the ladies]

MORTIMER This is the deadly spite that angers me;
My wife can speak no English, I no Welsh.

GLENDOWER My daughter weeps: she will not part
with you;
She'll be a soldier too, she'll to the wars.

MORTIMER Good father, tell her that she and my
aunt Percy
Shall follow in your conduct speedily.

*[Glendower speaks to her in Welsh, and she
answers him in the same]*

GLENDOWER She is desperate here; a peevish self-wind
harlotry, one that no persuasion can do good upon.

[The lady speaks in Welsh]

MORTIMER I understand thy looks: that pretty Welsh
Which thou pour'st down from these swelling heavens
I am too perfect in; and, but for shame,
In such a parley should I answer thee.

[The lady speaks again in Welsh]

I understand thy kisses and thou mine,
And that's a feeling disputation:
But I will never be a truant, love,
Till I have learned thy language; for thy tongue
Makes Welsh as sweet as ditties highly penn'd,
Sung by a fair queen in a summer's bower,
With ravishing division, to her lute.

GLENDOWER Nay, if you melt, then will she run mad.

[The lady speaks again in Welsh]

MORTIMER O, I am ignorance itself in this!

GLENDOWER She bids you on the wanton rushes lay
you down
And rest your gentle head upon her lap,
And she will sing the song that pleaseth you
And on your eyelids crown the god of sleep.
Charming your blood with pleasing heaviness,
Making such difference 'twixt wake and sleep
As is the difference betwixt day and night
The hour before the heavenly-harness'd team
Begins his golden progress in the east.

MORTIMER With all my heart I'll sit and hear her sing:
By that time will our book, I think, be drawn.

GLENDOWER Do so;
And those musicians that shall play to you
Hang in the air a thousand leagues from hence,
And straight they shall be here: sit, and attend.

HOTSPUR Come, Kate, thou art perfect in lying down:
come, quick, quick, that I may lay my head in thy lap.

LADY PERCY Go, ye giddy goose.

[The music plays]

HOTSPUR Now I perceive the devil understands Welsh;
And 'tis no marvel he is so humorous.
By'r lady, he is a good musician.

LADY PERCY Then should you be nothing but musical
for you are altogether governed by humours. Lie still,
ye thief, and hear the lady sing in Welsh.

HOTSPUR I had rather hear Lady, my brach, howl
in Irish.

LADY PERCY Wouldst thou have thy head broken?

HOTSPUR No.

LADY PERCY Then be still.

HOTSPUR Neither; 'tis a woman's fault.

LADY PERCY Now God help thee!

HOTSPUR To the Welsh lady's bed.

LADY PERCY What's that?

HOTSPUR Peace! she sings.

[Here the lady sings a Welsh song]

HOTSPUR Come, Kate, I'll have your song too.

LADY PERCY Not mine, in good sooth.

HOTSPUR Not yours, in good sooth! Heart! You swear like a comfit-maker's wife. "Not you, in good sooth," and "as true as I live," and "as God shall mend me," and "as sure as day," And givest such sarcenet surety for thy oaths,

As if thou never walk'st further than Finsbury.
Swear me, Kate, like a lady as thou art,
A good mouth-filling oath, and leave "in sooth,"
And such protest of pepper-gingerbread,
To velvet-guards and Sunday-citizens.
Come, sing.

LADY PERCY I will not sing.

HOTSPUR 'Tis the next way to turn tailor, or be red-breast teacher. An the indentures be drawn, I'll away within these two hours; and so, come in when ye will.

[Exit]

GLENDOWER Come, come, Lord Mortimer; you are as slow

As hot Lord Percy is on fire to go.
By this our book is drawn; we'll but seal,
And then to horse immediately.

MORTIMER With all my heart.

[Exeunt]

SCENE II

London. The palace.

[Enter KING HENRY IV, PRINCE HENRY, and others]

KING HENRY IV Lords, give us leave; the Prince of Wales and I

Must have some private conference; but be near at hand,

For we shall presently have need of you.

[Exeunt Lords]

I know not whether God will have it so,
For some displeasing service I have done,
That, in his secret doom, out of my blood
He'll breed revengement and a scourge for me;
But thou dost in thy passages of life
Make me believe that thou art only mark'd
For the hot vengeance and the rod of heaven
To punish my mistreadings. Tell me else,
Could such inordinate and low desires,
Such poor, such bare, such lewd, such mean attempts,
Such barren pleasures, rude society,
As thou art match'd withal and grafted to,
Accompany the greatness of thy blood
And hold their level with thy princely heart?

PRINCE HENRY So please your majesty, I would I could
Quit all offences with as clear excuse
As well as I am doubtless I can purge
Myself of many I am charged withal:
Yet such extenuation let me beg,
As, in reproof of many tales devised,
which oft the ear of greatness needs must hear,
By smiling pick-thanks and base news-mongers,
I may, for some things true, wherein my youth
Hath faulty wander'd and irregular,
Find pardon on my true submission.

KING HENRY IV God pardon thee! Yet let me wonder, Harry,
At thy affections, which do hold a wing
Quite from the flight of all thy ancestors.
Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost,
Which by thy younger brother is supplied,
And art almost an alien to the hearts
Of all the court and princes of my blood:

The hope and expectation of thy time
 Is ruin'd, and the soul of every man
 Prophetically doth forethink thy fall.
 Had I so lavish of my presence been,
 So common-hackney'd in the eyes of men,
 So stale and cheap to vulgar company,
 Opinion, that did help me to the crown,
 Had still kept loyal to possession
 And left me in reputeless banishment,
 A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.
 By being seldom seen, I could not stir
 But like a comet I was wonder'd at;
 That men would tell their children "This is he;"
 Others would say "Where, which is Bolingbroke?"
 And then I stole all courtesies from heaven,
 And dress'd myself in such humility
 That I did pluck allegiance from men's hearts,
 Loud shouts and salutations from their mouths,
 Even in the presence of the crowned king.
 Thus did I keep my person fresh and new;
 My presence, like a robe pontifical,
 Ne'er seen but wonder'd at: and so my state,
 Seldom but sumptuous, showed like a feast
 And won by rareness such solemnity.
 The skipping king, he ambled up and down
 With shallow jesters and rash bavin wits,
 Soon kindled and soon burnt; carded his state,
 Mingled his royalty with capering fools,
 Had his great name profaned with their scorns
 And gave his countenance, against his name,
 To laugh at gibing boys and stand the push
 Of every beardless vain comparative,
 Grew a companion to the common streets,
 Enfeoff'd himself to popularity;
 That, being daily swallow'd by men's eyes,
 They surfeited with honey and began
 To loathe the taste of sweetness, whereof a little
 More than a little is by much too much.
 So when he had occasion to be seen,
 He was but as the cuckoo is in June,
 Heard, not regarded; seen, but with such eyes
 As, sick and blunted with community,
 Afford no extraordinary gaze,
 Such as is bent on sun-like majesty
 When it shines seldom in admiring eyes;
 But rather drownd and hung their eyelids down,
 Slept in his face and render'd such aspect
 As cloudy men use to their adversaries,
 Being with his presence glutted, gorged and full.
 And in that very line, Harry, standest thou;
 For thou has lost thy princely privilege
 With vile participation: not an eye
 But is a-weary of thy common sight,
 Save mine, which hath desired to see thee more;

Which now doth that I would not have it do,
 Make blind itself with foolish tenderness.

PRINCE HENRY I shall hereafter, my thrice gracious lord,
 Be more myself.

KING HENRY IV For all the world
 As thou art to this hour was Richard then
 When I from France set foot at Ravenspurgh,
 And even as I was then is Percy now.
 Now, by my sceptre and my soul to boot,
 He hath more worthy interest to the state
 Than thou the shadow of succession;
 For of no right, nor colour like to right,
 He doth fill fields with harness in the realm,
 Turns head against the lion's armed jaws,
 And, being no more in debt to years than thou,
 Leads ancient lords and reverend bishops on
 To bloody battles and to bruising arms.
 What never-dying honour hath he got
 Against renowned Douglas! Whose high deeds,
 Whose hot incursions and great name in arms
 Holds from all soldiers chief majority
 And military title capital
 Through all the kingdoms that acknowledge Christ:
 Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in swathing clothes,
 This infant warrior, in his enterprises
 Discomfited great Douglas, ta'en him once,
 Enlarged him and made a friend of him,
 To fill the mouth of deep defiance up
 And shake the peace and safety of our throne.
 And what say you to this? Percy, Northumberland,
 The Archbishop's grace of York, Douglas, Mortimer,
 Capitulate against us and are up.
 But wherefore do I tell these news to thee?
 Why, Harry, do I tell thee of my foes,
 Which art my near'st and dearest enemy?
 Thou that art like enough, through vassal fear,
 Base inclination and the start of spleen
 To fight against me under Percy's pay,
 To dog his heels and curtsy at his frowns,
 To show how much thou art degenerate.

PRINCE HENRY Do not think so; you shall not find it so:
 And God forgive them that so much have sway'd
 Your majesty's good thoughts away from me!
 I will redeem all this on Percy's head
 And in the closing of some glorious day
 Be bold to tell you that I am your son;
 When I will wear a garment all of blood
 And stain my favours in a bloody mask,
 Which, wash'd away, shall scour my shame with it:
 And that shall be the day, when'er it lights,
 That this same child of honour and renown,

This gallant Hotspur, this all-praised knight,
And your unthought-of Harry chance to meet.
For every honour sitting on his helm,
Would they were multitudes, and on my head
My shames redoubled! For the time will come,
That I shall make this northern youth exchange
His glorious deeds for my indignities.
Percy is but my factor, good my lord,
To engross up glorious deeds on my behalf;
And I will call him to so strict account,
That he shall render every glory up,
Yea, even the slightest worship of his time,
Or I will tear the reckoning from his heart.
This, in the name of God, I promise here:
The which if He be pleased I shall perform,
I do beseech your majesty may save
The long-grown wounds of my intemperance:
If not, the end of life cancels all bands;
And I will die a hundred thousand deaths
Ere break the smallest parcel of this vow.

KING HENRY IV A hundred thousand rebels die in this:
Thou shalt have charge and sovereign trust herein.

[Enter BLUNT]

How now, good Blunt? Thy looks are full of speed.

SIR WALTER BLUNT So hath the business that I come to
speak of.
Lord Mortimer of Scotland hath sent word
That Douglas and the English rebels met
The eleventh of this month at Shrewsbury
A mighty and a fearful head they are,
If promises be kept on every hand,
As ever offer'd foul play in the state.

KING HENRY IV The Earl of Westmoreland set
forth to-day;
With him my son, Lord John of Lancaster;
For this advertisement is five days old:
On Wednesday next, Harry, you shall set forward;
On Thursday we ourselves will march: our meeting
Is Bridgenorth: and, Harry, you shall march
Through Gloucestershire; by which account,
Our business valued, some twelve days hence
Our general forces at Bridgenorth shall meet.
Our hands are full of business: let's away;
Advantage feeds him fat, while men delay.

[Exeunt]

SCENE III

Eastcheap. The Boar's-Head Tavern.

[Enter FALSTAFF and BARDOLPH]

FALSTAFF Bardolph, am I not fallen away vilely since
this last action? Do I not bate? Do I not dwindle? Why
my skin hangs about me like an like an old lady's loose
gown; I am withered like an old apple-john. Well, I'll
repent, and that suddenly, while I am in some liking; I
shall be out of heart shortly, and then I shall have no
strength to repent. An I have not forgotten what the
inside of a church is made of, I am a peppercorn, a
brewer's horse: the inside of a church! Company,
villanous company, hath been the spoil of me.

BARDOLPH Sir John, you are so fretful, you cannot
live long.

FALSTAFF Why, there is it: come sing me a bawdy song;
make me merry. I was as virtuously given as a
gentleman need to be; virtuous enough; swore little;
diced not above seven times a week; went to a
bawdy-house once in a quarter—of an hour; paid
money that I borrowed, three of four times; lived well
and in good compass: and now I live out of all order,
out of all compass.

BARDOLPH Why, you are so fat, Sir John, that you must
needs be out of all compass, out of all reasonable
compass, Sir John.

FALSTAFF Do thou amend thy face, and I'll amend my
life: thou art our admiral, thou bearest the lantern in
the poop, but 'tis in the nose of thee; thou art the
Knight of the Burning Lamp.

BARDOLPH Why, Sir John, my face does you no harm.

FALSTAFF No, I'll be sworn; I make as good use of it as
many a man doth of a Death's-head or a memento
mori: I never see thy face but I think upon hell-fire and
Dives that lived in purple; for there he is in his robes,
burning, burning. If thou wert any way given to virtue,
I would swear by thy face; my oath should be "By this
fire, that's God's angel:" but thou art altogether given
over; and wert indeed, but for the light in thy face, the
son of utter darkness. When thou rannest up Gadshill
in thentight to catch my horse, if I did not think thou
hadst been an ignis fatuus or a ball of wildfire, there's
no purchase in money. O, thou art a perpetual
triumph, an everlasting bonfire-light! Thou hast saved

me a thousand marks in links and torches, walking with thee in the night betwixt tavern and tavern: but the sack that thou hast drunk me would have bought me lights as good cheap at the dearest chandler's in Europe. I have maintained that salamander of yours with fire anytime this two and thirty years; God reward me for it!

BARDOLPH 'Sblood, I would my face were in your belly!

FALSTAFF God-a-mercy! So should I be sure to be heart-burned.

[Enter Hostess]

How now, Dame Partlet the hen! Have you inquired yet who picked my pocket?

HOSTESS Why, Sir John, what do you think, Sir John? Do you think I keep thieves in my house? I have searched, I have inquired, so has my husband, man by man, boy by boy, servant by servant: the tithe of a hair was never lost in my house before.

FALSTAFF Ye lie, hostess: Bardolph was shaved and lost many a hair; and I'll be sworn my pocket was picked. Go to, you are a woman, go.

HOSTESS Who, I? No; I defy thee: God's light, I was never called so in mine own house before.

FALSTAFF Go to, I know you well enough.

HOSTESS No, Sir John; You do not know me, Sir John. I know you, Sir John: you owe me money, Sir John; and now you pick a quarrel to beguile me of it: I bought you a dozen of shirts to your back.

FALSTAFF Dowlas, filthy dowlas: I have given them away to bakers' wives, and they have made bolters of them.

HOSTESS Now, as I am a true woman, holland of eight shillings an ell. You owe money here besides, Sir John, for your diet and by-drinkings, and money lent you, four and twenty pound.

FALSTAFF He had his part of it; let him pay.

HOSTESS He? Alas, he is poor; he hath nothing.

FALSTAFF How! Poor? Look upon his face; what call you rich? Let them coin his nose, let them coin his cheeks: Ill not pay a denier. What, will you make a younker of me? Shall I not take mine case in mine inn but I shall have my pocket picked? I have lost a seal-ring of my grandfather's worth forty mark.

HOSTESS O Jesu, I have heard the prince tell him, I know not how oft, that ring was copper!

FALSTAFF How! The prince is a Jack, a sneak-cup: 'sblood, an he were here, I would cudgel him like a dog, if he would say so.

[Enter PRINCE HENRY and PETO, marching, and FALSTAFF meets them playing on his truncheon like a fife]

How now, lad! Is the wind in that door, i' faith? Must we all march?

BARDOLPH Yea, two and two, Newgate fashion.

HOSTESS My lord, I pray you, hear me.

PRINCE HENRY What sayest thou, Mistress Quickly? How doth thy husband? I love him well; he is an honest man.

HOSTESS Good my lord, hear me.

FALSTAFF Prithee, let her alone, and list to me.

PRINCE HENRY What sayest thou, Jack?

FALSTAFF The other night I fell asleep here behind the arras and had my pocket picked: this house is turned bawdy-house; they pick pockets.

PRINCE HENRY What didst thou lose, Jack?

FALSTAFF Wilt thou believe me, Hal? Three or four bonds of forty pound apiece, and a seal-ring of my grandfather's.

PRINCE HENRY A trifle, some eight-penny matter.

HOSTESS So I told him, my lord; and I said I heard your grace say so: and, my lord, he speaks most vilely of you, like a foul-mouthed man as he is; and said he would cudgel you.

PRINCE HENRY What! He did not?

HOSTESS There's neither faith, truth, nor womanhood in me else.

FALSTAFF There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune; nor no more truth in thee than in a drawn fox; and for womanhood, Maid Marian may be the deputy's wife of the ward to thee. Go, you thing, go

HOSTESS Say, what thing? What thing?

FALSTAFF What thing! Why, a thing to thank God on.

HOSTESS I am no thing to thank God on, I would thou shouldst know it; I am an honest man's wife: and, setting thy knighthood aside, thou art a knave to call me so.

FALSTAFF Setting thy womanhood aside, thou art a beast to say otherwise.

HOSTESS Say, what beast, thou knave, thou?

FALSTAFF What beast! Why, an otter.

PRINCE HENRY An otter, Sir John! Why an otter?

FALSTAFF Why, she's neither fish nor flesh; a man knows not where to have her.

HOSTESS Thou art an unjust man in saying so: thou or any man knows where to have me, thou knave, thou!

PRINCE HENRY Thou sayest true, hostess; and he slanders thee most grossly.

HOSTESS So he doth you, my lord; and said this other day you ought him a thousand pound.

PRINCE HENRY Sirrah, do I owe you a thousand pound?

FALSTAFF A thousand pound, Ha! A million: thy love is worth a million: thou owest me thy love.

HOSTESS Nay, my lord, he called you Jack, and said he would cudgel you.

FALSTAFF Did I, Bardolph?

BARDOLPH Indeed, Sir John, you said so.

FALSTAFF Yea, if he said my ring was copper.

PRINCE HENRY I say 'tis copper: darest thou be as good as thy word now?

FALSTAFF Why, Hal, thou knowest, as thou art but man, I dare: but as thou art prince, I fear thee as I fear the roaring of a lion's whelp.

PRINCE HENRY And why not as the lion?

FALSTAFF The king is to be feared as the lion: dost thou think I'll fear thee as I fear thy father? Nay, an I do, I pray God my girdle break.

PRINCE HENRY O, if it should, how would thy guts fall about thy knees! But, sirrah, there's no room for faith, truth, nor honesty in this bosom of thine; it is all filled up with guts and midriff. Charge an honest woman with picking thy pocket! Why, thou whoreson, impudent, embossed rascal, if there were anything in

thy pocket but tavern-reckonings, memorandums of bawdy-houses, and one poor penny-worth of sugar-candy to make thee long-winded, if thy pocket were enriched with any other injuries but these, I am a villain: and yet you will stand to it; you will not pocket up wrong: art thou not ashamed?

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear, Hal? Thou knowest in the state of innocence Adam fell; and what should poor Jack Falstaff do in the days of villany? Thou seest I have more flesh than another man, and therefore more frailty. You confess then, you picked my pocket?

PRINCE HENRY It appears so by the story.

FALSTAFF Hostess, I forgive thee: go, make ready breakfast; love thy husband, look to thy servants, cherish thy guests: thou shalt find me tractable to any honest reason: thou seest I am pacified still. Nay, prithee, be gone.

[Exit Hostess]

Now Hal, to the news at court: for the robbery, lad, how is that answered?

PRINCE HENRY O, my sweet beef, I must still be good angel to thee: the money is paid back again.

FALSTAFF O, I do not like that paying back; 'tis a double labour.

PRINCE HENRY I am good friends with my father and may do any thing.

FALSTAFF Rob me the exchequer the first thing thou doest, and do it with unwashed hands too.

BARDOLPH Do, my lord.

PRINCE HENRY I have procured thee, Jack, a charge of foot.

FALSTAFF I would it had been of horse. Where shall I find one that can steal well? O for a fine thief, of the age of two and twenty or thereabouts! I am heinously unprovided. Well, God be thanked for these rebels, they offend none but the virtuous: I laud them, I praise them.

PRINCE HENRY Bardolph!

BARDOLPH My lord?

PRINCE HENRY Go bear this letter to Lord John of Lancaster, to my brother John; this to my Lord of Westmoreland.

[Exit Bardolph]

Go, Peto, to horse, to horse; for thou and I have thirty miles to ride yet ere dinner time.

[Exit Peto]

Jack, meet me to-morrow in the temple hall at two o'clock in the afternoon.
There shalt thou know thy charge; and there receive Money and order for their furniture.

The land is burning; Percy stands on high;
And either we or they must lower lie.

[Exit PRINCE HENRY]

FALSTAFF Rare words! Brave world! Hostess, my breakfast, come! O, I could wish this tavern were my drum!

[Exit]



ACT IV

SCENE I

The rebel camp near Shrewsbury.

[Enter HOTSPUR, WORCESTER, and DOUGLAS]

HOTSPUR Well said, my noble Scot: if speaking truth In this fine age were not thought flattery, Such attribution should the Douglas have, As not a soldier of this season's stamp Should go so general current through the world. By God, I cannot flatter; I do defy The tongues of soothers; but a braver place In my heart's love hath no man than yourself: Nay, task me to my word; approve me, lord.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Thou art the king of honour: No man so potent breathes upon the ground But I will beard him.

HOTSPUR Do so, and 'tis well.

[Enter a Messenger with letters]

What letters hast thou there?—I can but thank you.

MESSENGER These letters come from your father.

HOTSPUR Letters from him! Why comes he not himself?

MESSENGER He cannot come, my lord; he is grievous sick.

HOTSPUR 'Zounds! How has he the leisure to be sick In such a rustling time? Who leads his power? Under whose government come they along?

MESSENGER His letters bear his mind, not I, my lord.

EARL OF WORCESTER I prithee, tell me, doth he keep his bed?

MESSENGER He did, my lord, four days ere I set forth; And at the time of my departure thence He was much fear'd by his physicians.

EARL OF WORCESTER I would the state of time had first been whole Ere he by sickness had been visited: His health was never better worth than now.

HOTSPUR Sick now! Droop now! This sickness doth infect The very life-blood of our enterprise; 'Tis catching hither, even to our camp. He writes me here, that inward sickness— And that his friends by deputation could not So soon be drawn, nor did he think it meet To lay so dangerous and dear a trust On any soul removed but on his own. Yet doth he give us bold advertisement, That with our small conjunction we should on, To see how fortune is disposed to us; For, as he writes, there is no quailing now. Because the king is certainly possess'd Of all our purposes. What say you to it?

EARL OF WORCESTER Your father's sickness is a maim to us.

HOTSPUR A perilous gash, a very limb lopp'd off: And yet, in faith, it is not; his present want Seems more than we shall find it: were it good To set the exact wealth of all our states All at one cast? To set so rich a main On the nice hazard of one doubtful hour? It were not good; for therein should we read

The very bottom and the soul of hope,
The very list, the very utmost bound
Of all our fortunes.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Faith, and so we should;
Where now remains a sweet reversion:
We may boldly spend upon the hope of what
Is to come in:
A comfort of retirement lives in this.

HOTSPUR A rendezvous, a home to fly unto.
If that the devil and mischance look big
Upon the maidenhead of our affairs.

EARL OF WORCESTER But yet I would your father had
been here.

The quality and hair of our attempt
Brooks no division: it will be thought
By some, that know not why he is away,
That wisdom, loyalty and mere dislike
Of our proceedings kept the earl from hence:
And think how such an apprehension
May turn the tide of fearful faction
And breed a kind of question in our cause;
For well you know we of the offering side
Must keep aloof from strict arbitrement,
And stop all sight-holes, every loop from whence
The eye of reason may pry in upon us:
This absence of your father's draws a curtain,
That shows the ignorant a kind of fear
Before not dreamt of.

HOTSPUR You strain too far.
I rather of his absence make this use:
It lends a lustre and more great opinion,
A larger dare to our great enterprise,
Than if the earl were here; for men must think,
If we without his help can make a head
To push against a kingdom, with his help
We sh all o'eturn it topsy-turvy down.
Yet all goes well, yet all our joints are whole.

EARL OF DOUGLAS As heart can think: there is not such
a word
Spoke of in Scotland as this term of fear.

[Enter SIR RICHARD VERNON]

HOTSPUR My cousin Vernon, welcome, by my soul.

VERNON Pray God my news be worth a welcome, lord.
The Earl of Westmoreland, seven thousand strong,
Is marching hitherwards; with him Prince John.

HOTSPUR No harm: what more?

VERNON And further, I have learn'd,
The king himself in person is set forth,
Or hitherwards intended speedily,
With strong and mighty preparation.

HOTSPUR He shall be welcome too. Where is his son,
The nimble-footed madcap Prince of Wales,
And his comrades, that daff'd the world aside,
And bid it pass?

VERNON All furnish'd, all in arms;
All plumed like estridges that with the wind
Baited like eagles having lately bathed;
Glittering in golden coats, like images;
As full of spirit as the month of May,
And gorgeous as the sun at midsummer;
Wanton as youthful goats, wild as young bulls.
I saw young Harry, with his beaver on,
His cuisses on his thighs, gallantly arm'd
Rise from the ground like feather'd Mercury,
And vaulted with such ease into his seat,
As if an angel dropp'd down from the clouds,
To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus
And witch the world with noble horsemanship.

HOTSPUR No more, no more: worse than the sun
in March,

This praise doth nourish agues. Let them come:
They come like sacrifices in their trim,
And to the fire-eyed maid of smoky war
All hot and bleeding will we offer them:
The mailed Mars shall on his altar sit
Up to the ears in blood. I am on fire
To hear this rich reprisal is so nigh
And yet not ours. Come, let me taste my horse,
Who is to bear me like a thunderbolt
Against the bosom of the Prince of Wales:
Harry to Harry shall, hot horse to horse,
Meet and ne'er part till one drop down a corse.
O that Glendower were come!

VERNON There is more news:
I learn'd in Worcester, as I rode along,
He cannot draw his power this fourteen days.

EARL OF DOUGLAS That's the worst tidings that I hear
of yet.

WORCESTER Ay, by my faith, that bears a frosty sound.

HOTSPUR What may the king's whole battle
reach unto?

VERNON To thirty thousand.

HOTSPUR Forty let it be:
My father and Glendower being both away,
The powers of us may serve so great a day
Come, let us take a muster speedily:
Doomsday is near; die all, die merrily.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Talk not of dying: I am out of fear
Of death or death's hand for this one-half year.

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE II

A public road near Coventry.

[*Enter FALSTAFF and BARDOLPH*]

FALSTAFF Bardolph, get thee before to Coventry; fill me
a bottle of sack: our soldiers shall march through; we'll
to Sutton Co'fil' tonight.

BARDOLPH Will you give me money, captain?

FALSTAFF Lay out, lay out.

BARDOLPH This bottle makes an angel.

FALSTAFF An if it do, take it for thy labour; and if it
make twenty, take them all; I'll answer the coinage. Bid
my lieutenant Peto meet me at town's end.

BARDOLPH I will, captain: farewell.

[*Exit*]

FALSTAFF If I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am a
soused gurnet. I have misused the king's press
damnably. I have got, in exchange of a hundred and
fifty soldiers, three hundred and odd pounds. I press
me none but good house-holders, yeoman's sons;
inquire me out contracted bachelors, such as had been
asked twice on the banns; such a commodity of warm
slaves, as had as lieve hear the devil as a drum; such as
fear the report of a caliver worse than a struck fowl or
a hurt wild-duck. I pressed me none but such
toasts-and-butter, with hearts in their bellies no bigger
than pins' heads, and they have bought out their
services; and now my whole charge consists of
ancients, corporals, lieutenants, gentlemen of
companies, slaves as ragged as Lazarus in the painted
cloth, where the glutton's dogs licked his sores; and
such as indeed were never soldiers, but discarded
unjust serving-men, younger sons to younger brothers,
revolted tapsters and ostlers trade-fallen, the cankers of
a calm world and a long peace, ten times more
dishonourable ragged than an old faced ancient: and
such have I, to fill up the rooms of them that have

bought out their services, that you would think that I
had a hundred and fifty tattered prodigals lately come
from swine-keeping, from eating draff and husks. A
mad fellow met me on the way and told me I had
unloaded all the gibbets and pressed the dead bodies.
No eye hath seen such scarecrows. I'll not march
through Coventry with them, that's flat: nay, and the
villains march wide betwixt the legs, as if they had gyves
on; for indeed I had the most of them out of prison.
There's but a shirt and a half in all my company; and
the half shirt is two napkins tacked together and
thrown over the shoulders like an herald's coat without
sleeves; and the shirt, to say the truth, stolen from my
host at Saint Alban's, or the red-nose innkeeper of
Daventry. But that's all one; they'll find linen enough
on every hedge.

[*Enter the PRINCE and WESTMORELAND*]

PRINCE HENRY How now, blown Jack! How now, quilt!

FALSTAFF What, Hal! how now, mad wag! What a devil
dost thou in Warwickshire? My good Lord of
Westmoreland, I cry you mercy: I thought your
honour had already been at Shrewsbury.

WESTMORELAND Faith, Sir John, 'tis more than time that
I were there, and you too; but my powers are there
already. The king, I can tell you, looks for us all: we
must away all night.

FALSTAFF Tut, never fear me: I am as vigilant as a cat to
steal cream.

PRINCE HENRY I think, to steal cream indeed, for thy
theft hath already made thee butter. But tell me, Jack,
whose fellows are these that come after?

FALSTAFF Mine, Hal, mine.

PRINCE HENRY I did never see such pitiful rascals.

FALSTAFF Tut, tut; good enough to toss; food for
powder, food for powder; they'll fill a pit as well as
better: tush, man, mortal men, mortal men.

WESTMORELAND Ay, but, Sir John, methinks they are
exceeding poor and bare, too beggarly.

FALSTAFF 'Faith, for their poverty, I know not where
they had that; and for their bareness, I am sure they
never learned that of me.

PRINCE HENRY No I'll be sworn; unless you call three
fingers on the ribs bare. But, sirrah, make haste: Percy
is already in the field.

FALSTAFF What, is the king encamped?

WESTMORELAND He is, Sir John: I fear we shall stay too long.

FALSTAFF Well,
To the latter end of a fray and the beginning of a feast
Fits a dull fighter and a keen guest.

[Exeunt]

SCENE III

The rebel camp near Shrewsbury.

[Enter HOTSPUR, WORCESTER, DOUGLAS,
and VERNON]

HOTSPUR We'll fight with him to-night.

EARL OF WORCESTER It may not be.

EARL OF DOUGLAS You give him then the advantage.

VERNON Not a whit.

HOTSPUR Why say you so? Looks he not for supply?

VERNON So do we.

HOTSPUR His is certain, ours is doubtful.

EARL OF WORCESTER Good cousin, be advised; stir
not tonight.

VERNON Do not, my lord.

EARL OF DOUGLAS You do not counsel well:
You speak it out of fear and cold heart.

VERNON Do me no slander, Douglas: by my life,
And I dare well maintain it with my life,
If well-respected honour bid me on,
I hold as little counsel with weak fear
As you, my lord, or any Scot that this day lives:
Let it be seen to-morrow in the battle
Which of us fears.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Yea, or to-night.

VERNON Content.

HOTSPUR To-night, say I.

VERNON Come, come it nay not be. I wonder much,
Being men of such great leading as you are,
That you foresee not what impediments
Drag back our expedition: certain horse
Of my cousin Vernon's are not yet come up:
Your uncle Worcester's horse came but today;

And now their pride and mettle is asleep,
Their courage with hard labour tame and dull,
That not a horse is half the half of himself.

HOTSPUR So are the horses of the enemy
In general, journey-bated and brought low:
The better part of ours are full of rest.

EARL OF WORCESTER The number of the king
exceedeth ours:
For God's sake, cousin, stay till all come in.

[The trumpet sounds a parley]

[Enter SIR WALTER BLUNT]

SIR WALTER BLUNT I come with gracious offers from
the king,
If you vouchsafe me hearing and respect.

HOTSPUR Welcome, Sir Walter Blunt; and
would to God
You were of our determination!
Some of us love you well; and even those some
Envy your great deservings and good name,
Because you are not of our quality,
But stand against us like an enemy.

SIR WALTER BLUNT And God defend but still I should
stand so,
So long as out of limit and true rule
You stand against anointed majesty.
But to my charge. The king hath sent to know
The nature of your griefs, and whereupon
You conjure from the breast of civil peace
Such bold hostility, teaching his duteous land
Audacious cruelty. If that the king
Have any way your good deserts forgot,
Which he confesseth to be manifold,
He bids you name your griefs; and with all speed
You shall have your desires with interest
And pardon absolute for yourself and these
Herein misled by your suggestion.

HOTSPUR The king is kind; and well we know the king
Knows at what time to promise, when to pay.
My father and my uncle and myself
Did give him that same royalty he wears;
And when he was not six and twenty strong,
Sick in the world's regard, wretched and low,
A poor unminded outlaw sneaking home,
My father gave him welcome to the shore;
And when he heard him swear and vow to God
He came but to be Duke of Lancaster,
To sue his livery and beg his peace,
With tears of innocence and terms of zeal,

My father, in kind heart and pity moved,
Swore him assistance and perform'd it too.
Now when the lords and barons of the realm
Perceived Northumberland did lean to him,
The more and less came in with cap and knee;
Met him in boroughs, cities, villages,
Attended him on bridges, stood in lanes,
Laid gifts before him, proffer'd him their oaths,
Gave him their heirs, as pages follow'd him
Even at the heels in golden multitudes.
He presently, as greatness knows itself,
Steps me a little higher than his vow
Made to my father, while his blood was poor,
Upon the naked shore at Ravenspurgh;
And now, forsooth, takes on him to reform
Some certain edicts and some strait decrees
That lie too heavy on the commonwealth,
Cries out upon abuses, seems to weep
Over his country's wrongs; and by this face,
This seeming brow of justice, did he win
The hearts of all that he did angle for;
Proceeded further; cut me off the heads
Of all the favourites that the absent king
In deputation left behind him here,
When he was personal in the Irish war.

SIR WALTER BLUNT Tut, I came not to hear this.

HOTSPUR Then to the point.
In short time after, he deposed the king;
Soon after that, deprived him of his life;
And in the neck of that, task'd the whole state:
To make that worse, suffer'd his kinsman March,
Who is, if every owner were well placed,
Indeed his king, to be engaged in Wales,
There without ransom to lie forfeited;
Disgraced me in my happy victories,
Sought to entrap me by intelligence;
Rated mine uncle from the council-board;
In rage dismiss'd my father from the court;
Broke oath on oath, committed wrong on wrong,
And in conclusion drove us to seek out
This head of safety; and withal to pry
Into his title, the which we find
Too indirect for long continuance.

SIR WALTER BLUNT Shall I return this answer to the king?

HOTSPUR Not so, Sir Walter: we'll withdraw awhile.
Go to the king; and let there be impawn'd
Some surety for a safe return again,
And in the morning early shall my uncle
Bring him our purposes: and so farewell.

SIR WALTER BLUNT I would you would accept of grace and love.

HOTSPUR And may be so we shall.

SIR WALTER BLUNT Pray God you do.

[*Exeunt*]

SCENE IV

York. The ARCHBISHOP's palace.

[*Enter the ARCHBISHOP OF YORK and SIR MICHAEL*]

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK Hie, good Sir Michael; bear this sealed brief
With winged haste to the lord marshal;
This to my cousin Scroop, and all the rest
To whom they are directed. If you knew
How much they do to import, you would make haste.

SIR MICHAEL My good lord,
I guess their tenor.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK Like enough you do.
To-morrow, good Sir Michael, is a day
Wherein the fortune of ten thousand men
Must bide the touch; for, sir, at Shrewsbury,
As I am truly given to understand,
The king with mighty and quick-raised power
Meets with Lord Harry: and, I fear, Sir Michael,
What with the sickness of Northumberland,
Whose power was in the first proportion,
And what with Owen Glendower's absence thence,
Who with them was a rated sinew too
And comes not in, o'er-ruled by prophecies,
I fear the power of Percy is too weak
To wage an instant trial with the king.

SIR MICHAEL Why, my good lord, you need not fear;
There is Douglas and Lord Mortimer.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK No, Mortimer is not there.

SIR MICHAEL But there is Mordake, Vernon,
Lord Harry Percy,
And there is my Lord of Worcester and a head
Of gallant warriors, noble gentlemen.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK And so there is: but yet the king
hath drawn
The special head of all the land together:
The Prince of Wales, Lord John of Lancaster,
The noble Westmoreland and warlike Blunt;
And moe corivals and dear men
Of estimation and command in arms.

SIR MICHAEL Doubt not, my lord, they shall be well opposed.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK I hope no less, yet needful 'tis to fear;
And, to prevent the worst, Sir Michael, speed:
For if Lord Percy thrive not, ere the king

Dismiss his power, he means to visit us,
For he hath heard of our confederacy,
And 'tis but wisdom to make strong against him:
Therefore make haste. I must go write again
To other friends; and so farewell, Sir Michael.

[Exeunt]



ACT V

SCENE I

KING HENRY IV's camp near Shrewsbury.

[Enter KING HENRY, PRINCE HENRY, Lord John of LANCASTER, EARL OF WESTMORELAND, SIR WALTER BLUNT, and FALSTAFF]

KING HENRY IV How bloodily the sun begins to peer
Above yon busky hill! The day looks pale
At his distemperature.

PRINCE HENRY The southern wind
Doth play the trumpet to his purposes,
And by his hollow whistling in the leaves
Foretells a tempest and a blustering day.

KING HENRY IV Then with the losers let it sympathize,
For nothing can seem foul to those that win.

[The trumpet sounds]

[Enter WORCESTER and VERNON]

How now, my Lord of Worcester! 'Tis not well
That you and I should meet upon such terms
As now we meet. You have deceived our trust,
And made us doff our easy robes of peace,
To crush our old limbs in ungentle steel:
This is not well, my lord, this is not well.
What say you to it? Will you again unknit
This curlish knot of all-abhorred war?
And move in that obedient orb again
Where you did give a fair and natural light,
And be no more an exhaled meteor,
A prodigy of fear and a portent
Of broached mischief to the unborn times?

EARL OF WORCESTER Hear me, my liege:
For mine own part, I could be well content
To entertain the lag-end of my life

With quiet hours; for I do protest,
I have not sought the day of this dislike.

KING HENRY IV You have not sought it! How
comes it, then?

FALSTAFF Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it.

PRINCE HENRY Peace, chewet, peace!

EARL OF WORCESTER It pleased your majesty to turn
your looks
Of favour from myself and all our house;
And yet I must remember you, my lord,
We were the first and dearest of your friends.
For you my staff of office did I break
In Richard's time; and posted day and night
to meet you on the way, and kiss your hand,
When yet you were in place and in account
Nothing so strong and fortunate as I.
It was myself, my brother and his son,
That brought you home and boldly did outdare
The dangers of the time. You swore to us,
And you did swear that oath at Doncaster,
That you did nothing purpose 'gainst the state;
Nor claim no further than your new-fall'n right,
The seat of Gaunt, dukedom of Lancaster:
To this we swore our aid. But in short space
It rain'd down fortune showering on your head;
And such a flood of greatness fell on you,
What with our help, what with the absent king,
What with the injuries of a wanton time,
The seeming sufferances that you had borne,
And the contrarious winds that held the king
So long in his unlucky Irish wars
That all in England did repute him dead:
And from this swarm of fair advantages
You took occasion to be quickly woo'd
To gripe the general sway into your hand;
Forget your oath to us at Doncaster;

And being fed by us you used us so
As that ungentle hull, the cuckoo's bird,
Useth the sparrow; did oppress our nest;
Grew by our feeding to so great a bulk
That even our love durst not come near your sight
For fear of swallowing; but with nimble wing
We were enforced, for safety sake, to fly
Out of sight and raise this present head;
Whereby we stand opposed by such means
As you yourself have forged against yourself
By unkind usage, dangerous countenance,
And violation of all faith and troth
Sworn to us in your younger enterprise.

KING HENRY IV These things indeed you have articulate,
Proclaim'd at market-crosses, read in churches,
To face the garment of rebellion
With some fine colour that may please the eye
Of fickle changelings and poor discontents,
Which gape and rub the elbow at the news
Of hurlyburly innovation:
And never yet did insurrection want
Such water-colours to impaint his cause;
Nor moody beggars, starving for a time
Of pellmell havoc and confusion.

PRINCE HENRY In both your armies there is many a soul
Shall pay full dearly for this encounter,
If once they join in trial. Tell your nephew,
The Prince of Wales doth join with all the world
In praise of Henry Percy: by my hopes,
This present enterprise set off his head,
I do not think a braver gentleman,
More active-valiant or more valiant-young,
More daring or more bold, is now alive
To grace this latter age with noble deeds.
For my part, I may speak it to my shame,
I have a truant been to chivalry;
And so I hear he doth account me too;
Yet this before my father's majesty—
I am content that he shall take the odds
Of his great name and estimation,
And will, to save the blood on either side,
Try fortune with him in a single fight.

KING HENRY IV And, Prince of Wales, so dare we
venture thee,
Albeit considerations infinite
Do make against it. No, good Worcester, no,
We love our people well; even those we love
That are misled upon your cousin's part;

And, will they take the offer of our grace,
Both he and they and you, every man
Shall be my friend again and I'll be his:
So tell your cousin, and bring me word
What he will do: but if he will not yield,
Rebuke and dread correction wait on us
And they shall do their office. So, be gone;
We will not now be troubled with reply:
We offer fair; take it advisedly.

[*Exeunt WORCESTER and VERNON*]

PRINCE HENRY It will not be accepted, on my life:
The Douglas and the Hotspur both together
Are confident against the world in arms.

KING HENRY IV Hence, therefore, every leader to
his charge;
For, on their answer, will we set on them:
And God befriend us, as our cause is just!

[*Exeunt all but PRINCE HENRY and FALSTAFF*]

FALSTAFF Hal, if thou see me down in the battle and
bestride me, so; 'tis a point of friendship.

PRINCE HENRY Nothing but a colossus can do thee
that friendship.
Say thy prayers, and farewell.

FALSTAFF I would 'twere bed-time, Hal, and all well.

PRINCE HENRY Why, thou owest God a death.

[*Exit PRINCE HENRY*]

FALSTAFF 'Tis not due yet; I would be loath to pay him
before his day. What need I be so forward with him
that calls not on me? Well, 'tis no matter; honour
pricks me on. Yea, but how if honour prick me off
when I come on? How then? Can honour set to a leg?
No: or an arm? No: or take away the grief of a wound?
No. Honour hath no skill in surgery, then? No. What is
honour? Aword. What is in that word honour? What is
that honour? Air. A trim reckoning! Who hath it? He
that died o' Wednesday. Doth he feel it? No. Doth he
hear it? No. 'Tis insensible, then. Yea, to the dead. But
will it not live with the living? No. Why? Detraction will
not suffer it. Therefore I'll none of it. Honour is a mere
scutcheon: and so ends my catechism.

[*Exit*]

SCENE II

The rebel camp.

[Enter WORCESTER and VERNON]

EARL OF WORCESTER O, no, my nephew must not know,
Sir Richard,
The liberal and kind offer of the king.

VERNON 'Twere best he did.

EARL OF WORCESTER Then are we all undone.
It is not possible, it cannot be,
The king should keep his word in loving us;
He will suspect us still and find a time
To punish this offence in other faults:
Suspicion all our lives shall be stuck full of eyes;
For treason is but trusted like the fox,
Who, ne'er so tame, so cherish'd and lock'd up,
Will have a wild trick of his ancestors.
Look how we can, or sad or merrily,
Interpretation will misquote our looks,
And we shall feed like oxen at a stall,
The better cherish'd, still the nearer death.
My nephew's trespass may be well forgot;
it hath the excuse of youth and heat of blood,
And an adopted name of privilege,
A hair-brain'd Hotspur, govern'd by a spleen:
All his offences live upon my head
And on his father's; we did train him on,
And, his corruption being ta'en from us,
We, as the spring of all, shall pay for all.
Therefore, good cousin, let not Harry know,
In any case, the offer of the king.

VERNON Deliver what you will; I'll say 'tis so.
Here comes your cousin.

[Enter HOTSPUR and DOUGLAS]

HOTSPUR My uncle is return'd:
Deliver up my Lord of Westmoreland.
Uncle, what news?

EARL OF WORCESTER The king will bid you
battle presently.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Defy him by the Lord
of Westmoreland.

HOTSPUR Lord Douglas, go you and tell him so.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Marry, and shall, and very willingly.

[Exit]

EARL OF WORCESTER There is no seeming mercy in
the king.

HOTSPUR Did you beg any? God forbid!

EARL OF WORCESTER I told him gently of our grievances,
Of his oath-breaking; which he mended thus,
By now forswearing that he is forsworn:
He calls us rebels, traitors; and will scourge
With haughty arms this hateful name in us.

[Re-enter the EARL OF DOUGLAS]

EARL OF DOUGLAS Arm, gentlemen; to arms! For I
have thrown
A brave defiance in King Henry's teeth,
And Westmoreland, that was engaged, did bear it;
Which cannot choose but bring him quickly on.

EARL OF WORCESTER The Prince of Wales stepp'd forth
before the king,
And, nephew, challenged you to single fight.

HOTSPUR O, would the quarrel lay upon our heads,
And that no man might draw short breath today
But I and Harry Monmouth! Tell me, tell me,
How show'd his tasking? Seem'd it in contempt?

VERNON No, by my soul; I never in my life
Did hear a challenge urged more modestly,
Unless a brother should a brother dare
To gentle exercise and proof of arms.
He gave you all the duties of a man;
Trim'm'd up your praises with a princely tongue,
Spoke to your deservings like a chronicle,
Making you ever better than his praise
By still disparaging praise valued in you;
And, which became him like a prince indeed,
He made a blushing cital of himself;
And chid his truant youth with such a grace
As if he master'd there a double spirit.
Of teaching and of learning instantly.
There did he pause: but let me tell the world,
If he outlive the envy of this day,
England did never owe so sweet a hope,
So much misconstrued in his wantonness.

HOTSPUR Cousin, I think thou art enamoured
On his follies: never did I hear
Of any prince so wild a libertine.
But be he as he will, yet once ere night
I will embrace him with a soldier's arm,
That he shall shrink under my courtesy.
Arm, arm with speed: and, fellows, soldiers, friends,
Better consider what you have to do

Than I, that have not well the gift of tongue,
Can lift your blood up with persuasion.

[Enter a Messenger]

MESSENGER My lord, here are letters for you.

HOTSPUR I cannot read them now.
O gentlemen, the time of life is short!
To spend that shortness basely were too long,
If life did ride upon a dial's point,
Still ending at the arrival of an hour.
An if we live, we live to tread on kings;
If die, brave death, when princes die with us!
Now, for our consciences, the arms are fair,
When the intent of bearing them is just.

[Enter another Messenger]

MESSENGER My lord, prepare; the king comes on apace.

HOTSPUR I thank him, that he cuts me from my tale,
For I profess not talking; only this—
Let each man do his best: and here draw I
A sword, whose temper I intend to stain
With the best blood that I can meet withal
In the adventure of this perilous day.
Now, Esperance! Percy! And set on.
Sound all the lofty instruments of war,
And by that music let us all embrace;
For, heaven to earth, some of us never shall
A second time do such a courtesy.

[The trumpets sound. They embrace, and exeunt]

SCENE III

Plain between the camps.

[KING HENRY enters with his power. Alarum to the battle. Then enter DOUGLAS and SIR WALTER BLUNT]

SIR WALTER BLUNT What is thy name, that in the
battle thus
Thou crossest me? What honour dost thou seek
Upon my head?

EARL OF DOUGLAS Know then, my name is Douglas;
And I do haunt thee in the battle thus
Because some tell me that thou art a king.

SIR WALTER BLUNT They tell thee true.

EARL OF DOUGLAS The Lord of Stafford dear to-day
hath bought
Thy likeness, for instead of thee, King Harry,

This sword hath ended him: so shall it thee,
Unless thou yield thee as my prisoner.

SIR WALTER BLUNT I was not born a yielder, thou
proud Scot;
And thou shalt find a king that will revenge
Lord Stafford's death.

[They fight. DOUGLAS kills SIR WALTER BLUNT. Enter HOTSPUR]

HOTSPUR O Douglas, hadst thou fought at Holmedon
thus, never had triumph'd upon a Scot.

EARL OF DOUGLAS All's done, all's won; here breathless
lies the king.

HOTSPUR Where?

EARL OF DOUGLAS Here.

HOTSPUR This, Douglas? No: I know this face full well:
A gallant knight he was, his name was Blunt;
Sembably furnish'd like the king himself.

EARL OF DOUGLAS A fool go with thy soul, whither
it goes!
A borrow'd title hast thou bought too dear:
Why didst thou tell me that thou wert a king?

HOTSPUR The king hath many marching in his coats.

EARL OF DOUGLAS Now, by my sword, I will kill all
his coats;
I'll murder all his wardrobe, piece by piece,
Until I meet the king.

HOTSPUR Up, and away!
Our soldiers stand full fairly for the day.

[Exeunt]

[Alarum. Enter FALSTAFF, solus]

FALSTAFF Though I could 'scape shot-free at London, I
fear the shot here; here's no scoring but upon the pate.
Soft! Who are you? Sir Walter Blunt: there's honour for
you! Here's no vanity! I am as hot as moulten lead, and
as heavy too: God keep lead out of me! I need no more
weight than mine own bowels. I have led my
ragamuffins where they are peppered: there's not three
of my hundred and fifty left alive; and they are for the
town's end, to beg during life. But who comes here?

[Enter PRINCE HENRY]

PRINCE HENRY What, stand'st thou idle here? Lend me thy sword:
Many a nobleman lies stark and stiff
Under the hoofs of vaunting enemies,
Whose deaths are yet unrevenged: I prithee,
Lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF O Hal, I prithee, give me leave to breathe awhile. Turk Gregory never did such deeds in arms as I have done this day. I have paid Percy, I have made him sure.

PRINCE HENRY He is, indeed; and living to kill thee. I prithee, lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF Nay, before God, Hal, if Percy be alive, thou get'st not my sword; but take my pistol, if thou wilt.

PRINCE HENRY Give it to me: what, is it in the case?

FALSTAFF Ay, Hal; 'tis hot, 'tis hot; there's that will sack a city.

[PRINCE HENRY draws it out, and finds it to be a bottle of sack]

PRINCE HENRY What, is it a time to jest and dally now?

[He throws the bottle at him. Exit]

FALSTAFF Well, if Percy be alive, I'll pierce him. If he do come in my way, so: if he do not, if I come in his willingly, let him make a carbonado of me. I like not such grinning honour as Sir Walter hath: give me life: which if I can save, so; if not, honour comes unlooked for, and there's an end.

[Exit FALSTAFF]

SCENE IV

Another part of the field.

[Alarum. Excursions. Enter PRINCE HENRY, LORD JOHN OF LANCASTER, and EARL OF WESTMORELAND]

KING HENRY IV I prithee,
Harry, withdraw thyself; thou bleed'st too much.
Lord John of Lancaster, go you with him.

LANCASTER Not I, my lord, unless I did bleed too.

PRINCE HENRY I beseech your majesty, make up,
Lest your retirement do amaze your friends.

KING HENRY IV I will do so.
My Lord of Westmoreland, lead him to his tent.

WESTMORELAND Come, my lord, I'll lead you to your tent.

PRINCE HENRY Lead me, my lord? I do not need your help:
And God forbid a shallow scratch should drive
The Prince of Wales from such a field as this,
Where stain'd nobility lies trodden on,
and rebels' arms triumph in massacres!

LANCASTER We breathe too long: come,
cousin Westmoreland,
Our duty this way lies; for God's sake come.

[Exeunt LANCASTER and WESTMORELAND]

PRINCE HENRY By God, thou hast deceived me, Lancaster;
I did not think thee lord of such a spirit:
Before, I loved thee as a brother, John;
But now, I do respect thee as my soul.

KING HENRY IV I saw him hold Lord Percy at the point
With lustier maintenance than I did look for
Of such an ungrown warrior.

PRINCE HENRY O, this boy
Lends mettle to us all!

[Exit]

[Enter DOUGLAS]

EARL OF DOUGLAS Another king! they grow like
Hydra's heads:
I am the Douglas, fatal to all those
That wear those colours on them: what art thou,
That counterfeit'st the person of a king?

KING HENRY IV The king himself; who, Douglas, grieves at heart
So many of his shadows thou hast met
And not the very king. I have two boys
Seek Percy and thyself about the field:
But, seeing thou fall'st on me so luckily,
I will assay thee: so, defend thyself.

EARL OF DOUGLAS I fear thou art another counterfeit;
And yet, in faith, thou bear'st thee like a king:
But mine I am sure thou art, whoe'er thou be,
And thus I win thee.

[They fight. KING HENRY being in danger, PRINCE HENRY enters]

PRINCE HENRY Hold up thy head, vile Scot, or thou art like

Never to hold it up again! The spirits
Of valiant Shirley, Stafford, Blunt, are in my arms:
It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee;
Who never promiseth but he means to pay.

[They fight: DOUGLAS flies]

Cheerly, my lord how fares your grace?
Sir Nicholas Gawsey hath for succor sent,
And so hath Clifton: I'll to Clifton straight.

KING HENRY IV Stay, and breathe awhile:
Thou hast redeem'd thy lost opinion,
And show'd thou makest some tender of my life,
In this fair rescue thou hast brought to me.

PRINCE HENRY O God! They did me too much injury
That ever said I hearken'd for your death.
If it were so, I might have let alone
The insulting hand of Douglas over you,
Which would have been as speedy in your end
As all the poisonous potions in the world
And saved the treacherous labour of your son.

KING HENRY IV Make up to Clifton: I'll to Sir
Nicholas Gawsey.

[Exit]

[Enter HOTSPUR]

HOTSPUR If I mistake not, thou art Harry Monmouth.

PRINCE HENRY Thou speak'st as if I would deny
my name.

HOTSPUR My name is Harry Percy.

PRINCE HENRY Why, then I see
A very valiant rebel of the name.
I am the Prince of Wales; and think not, Percy,
To share with me in glory any more:
Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere;
Nor can one England brook a double reign,
Of Harry Percy and the Prince of Wales.

HOTSPUR Nor shall it, Harry; for the hour is come
To end the one of us; and would to God
Thy name in arms were now as great as mine!

PRINCE HENRY I'll make it greater ere I part from thee;
And all the budding honours on thy crest
I'll crop, to make a garland for my head.

HOTSPUR I can no longer brook thy vanities.

[They fight]

[Enter FALSTAFF]

FALSTAFF Well said, Hal! To it Hal! Nay, you shall find
no boy's play here, I can tell you.

*[Re-enter DOUGLAS; he fights with FALSTAFF,
who falls down as if he were dead, and exit
DOUGLAS. HOTSPUR is wounded, and falls]*

HOTSPUR O, Harry, thou hast robb'd me of my youth!
I better brook the loss of brittle life
Than those proud titles thou hast won of me;
They wound my thoughts worse than sword my flesh:
But thought's the slave of life, and life time's fool;
And time, that takes survey of all the world,
Must have a stop. O, I could prophesy,
But that the earthy and cold hand of death
Lies on my tongue: no, Percy, thou art dust
And food for—

[Dies]

PRINCE HENRY For worms, brave Percy: fare thee well,
great heart!
Ill-weaved ambition, how much art thou shrunk!
When that this body did contain a spirit,
A kingdom for it was too small a bound;
But now two paces of the vilest earth
Is room enough: this earth that bears thee dead
Bears not alive so stout a gentleman.
If thou wert sensible of courtesy,
I should not make so dear a show of zeal:
But let my favours hide thy mangled face;
And, even in thy behalf, I'll thank myself
For doing these fair rites of tenderness.
Adieu, and take thy praise with thee to heaven!
Thy ignominy sleep with thee in the grave,
But not remember'd in thy epitaph!

[He spieth FALSTAFF on the ground]

What, old acquaintance! Could not all this flesh
Keep in a little life? Poor Jack, farewell!
I could have better spared a better man:
O, I should have a heavy miss of thee,
If I were much in love with vanity!
Death hath not struck so fat a deer to-day,
Though many dearer, in this bloody fray.
Embowell'd will I see thee by and by:
Till then in blood by noble Percy lie.

[Exit PRINCE HENRY]

FALSTAFF *[Rising up]* Embowell'd! If thou embowel
me to-day, I'll give you leave to powder me and eat me

too-to-morrow. 'Sblood, 'twas time to counterfeit, or that hot termagant Scot had paid me scot and lot too. Counterfeit? I lie, I am no counterfeit: to die, is to be a counterfeit; for he is but the counterfeit of a man who hath not the life of a man: but to counterfeit dying, when a man thereby liveth, is to be no counterfeit, but the true and perfect image of life indeed. The better part of valour is discretion; in the which better part I have saved my life. 'Zounds, I am afraid of this gunpowder Percy, though he be dead: how, if he should counterfeit too and rise? By my faith, I am afraid he would prove the better counterfeit. Therefore I'll make him sure; yea, and I'll swear I killed him. Why may not he rise as well as I? Nothing confutes me but eyes, and nobody sees me. Therefore, sirrah,

[Stabbing him]

with a new wound in your thigh, come you along with me.

[Takes up HOTSPUR on his back]

[Re-enter PRINCE HENRY and LORD JOHN OF LANCASTER]

PRINCE HENRY Come, brother John; full bravely hast thou flesh'd
Thy maiden sword.

LANCASTER But, soft! Whom have we here?
Did you not tell me this fat man was dead?

PRINCE HENRY I did; I saw him dead,
Breathless and bleeding on the ground. Art thou alive?
Or is it fantasy that plays upon our eyesight?
I prithee, speak; we will not trust our eyes
Without our ears: thou art not what thou seem'st.

FALSTAFF No, that's certain; I am not a double man:
but if I be not Jack Falstaff, then am I a Jack.
There is Percy:

[Throwing the body down]

If your father will do me any honour, so; if not, let him kill the next Percy himself. I look to be either earl or duke, I can assure you.

PRINCE HENRY Why, Percy I killed myself and saw thee dead.

FALSTAFF Didst thou? Lord, Lord, how this world is given to lying! I grant you I was down and out of breath; and so was he: but we rose both at an instant

and fought a long hour by Shrewsbury clock. If I may be believed, so; if not, let them that should reward valour bear the sin upon their own heads. I'll take it upon my death, I gave him this wound in the thigh: if the man were alive and would deny it, 'zounds, I would make him eat a piece of my sword.

LANCASTER This is the strangest tale that ever I heard.

PRINCE HENRY This is the strangest fellow,
brother John.

Come, bring your luggage nobly on your back:
For my part, if a lie may do thee grace,
I'll gild it with the happiest terms I have.

[A retreat is sounded]

The trumpet sounds retreat; the day is ours.
Come, brother, let us to the highest of the field,
To see what friends are living, who are dead.

[Exeunt PRINCE HENRY and LANCASTER]

FALSTAFF I'll follow, as they say, for reward. He that rewards me, God reward him! If I do grow great,
I'll grow less; for I'll purge, and leave sack, and live cleanly as a nobleman should do.

[Exit]

SCENE V

Another part of the field.

[The trumpets sound. Enter KING HENRY IV, PRINCE HENRY, LORD JOHN LANCASTER, EARL OF WESTMORELAND, with WORCESTER and VERNON prisoners]

KING HENRY IV Thus ever did rebellion find rebuke.
Ill-spirited Worcester! Did not we send grace,
Pardon and terms of love to all of you?
And wouldst thou turn our offers contrary?
Misuse the tenor of thy kinsman's trust?
Three knights upon our party slain to-day,
A noble earl and many a creature else
Had been alive this hour,
If like a Christian thou hadst truly borne
Betwixt our armies true intelligence.

EARL OF WORCESTER What I have done my safety urged me to;
And I embrace this fortune patiently,
Since not to be avoided it falls on me.

KING HENRY IV Bear Worcester to the death and
Vernon too:
Other offenders we will pause upon.

[Exeunt WORCESTER and VERNON, guarded]

How goes the field?

PRINCE HENRY The noble Scot, Lord Douglas, when
he saw

The fortune of the day quite turn'd from him,
The noble Percy slain, and all his men
Upon the foot of fear, fled with the rest;
And falling from a hill, he was so bruised
That the pursuers took him. At my tent
The Douglas is; and I beseech your grace
I may dispose of him.

KING HENRY IV With all my heart.

PRINCE HENRY Then, brother John of Lancaster, to you
This honourable bounty shall belong:
Go to the Douglas, and deliver him

Up to his pleasure, ransomless and free:
His valour shown upon our crests to-day
Hath taught us how to cherish such high deeds
Even in the bosom of our adversaries.

LANCASTER I thank your grace for this high courtesy,
Which I shall give away immediately.

KING HENRY IV Then this remains, that we divide
our power.

You, son John, and my cousin Westmoreland
Towards York shall bend you with your dearest speed,
To meet Northumberland and the prelate Scroop,
Who, as we hear, are busily in arms:
Myself and you, son Harry, will towards Wales,
To fight with Glendower and the Earl of March.
Rebellion in this land shall lose his sway,
Meeting the cheque of such another day:
And since this business so fair is done,
Let us not leave till all our own be won.

[Exeunt]

