

Richard Duke of York

4.8

Flourish. Enter King Edward, Richard Duke of Gloucester, and Lord Hastings, [with a troop of Hollanders]

KING EDWARD

Now, brother Richard, Lord Hastings, and the rest,
Yet thus far fortune maketh us amends,
And says that once more I shall interchange
My waneÁd state for Henry's regal crown.
Well have we passed and now repassed the seas
And brought desireÁd help from Burgundy.
What then remains, we being thus arrived
From Ravenspurgh haven before the gates of York,
But that we enter, as into our dukedom?

5

[Hastings] knocks at the gates of York

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

The gates made fast? Brother, I like not this.
For many men that stumble at the threshold
Are well foretold that danger lurks within.

10

KING EDWARD

Tush, man, abodements must not now affright us.
By fair or foul means we must enter in,
For hither will our friends repair to us.

15

HASTINGS

My liege, I'll knock once more to summon them.
He knocks.

Enter, on the walls, the Mayor and aldermen of York

MAYOR

My lords, we were forewarneÁd of your coming,
And shut the gates for safety of ourselves±±
For now we owe allegiance unto Henry.

KING EDWARD

But, Master Mayor, if Henry be your king,
Yet Edward at the least is Duke of York.

20

MAYOR

True, my good lord, I know you for no less.

KING EDWARD

Why, and I challenge nothing but my dukedom,

As being well content with that alone.

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER (*aside*)
 But when the fox hath once got in his nose, 25
 He'll soon find means to make the body follow.

HASTINGS
 Why, Master Mayor, why stand you in a doubt?
 Open the gates±±we are King Henry's friends.

MAYOR
 Ay, say you so? The gates shall then be opened.
They descend

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER
 A wise stout captain, and soon persuaded. 30

HASTINGS
 The good old man would fain that all were well,
 So 'twere not long of him; but being entered,
 I doubt not, I, but we shall soon persuade
 Both him and all his brothers unto reason.
Enter below the Mayor and two aldermen

KING EDWARD
 So, Master Mayor, these gates must not be shut 35
 But in the night or in the time of war.
 What±±fear not, man, but yield me up the keys,
King Edward takes some keys from the Mayor
 For Edward will defend the town and thee,
 And all those friends that deign to follow me.
*March. Enter Sir John Montgomery with a
 drummer and soldiers*

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER
 Brother, this is Sir John Montgomery, 40
 Our trusty friend, unless I be deceived.

KING EDWARD
 Welcome, Sir John±±but why come you in arms?

MONTGOMERY
 To help King Edward in his time of storm,
 As every loyal subject ought to do.

KING EDWARD
 Thanks, good Montgomery, but we now forget 45
 Our title to the crown, and only claim
 Our dukedom till God please to send the rest.

MONTGOMERY
 Then fare you well, for I will hence again.

I came to serve a king and not a duke.
Drummer, strike up, and let us march away. 50
The drummer begins to sound a march

KING EDWARD

Nay, stay, Sir John, a while, and we'll debate
By what safe means the crown may be recovered.

MONTGOMERY

What talk you of debating? In few words,
If you'll not here proclaim yourself our king
I'll leave you to your fortune and be gone 55
To keep them back that come to succour you.
Why shall we fight, if you pretend no title?

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER *(to King Edward)*

Why, brother, wherefore stand you on nice points?

KING EDWARD

When we grow stronger, then we'll make our claim.
Till then 'tis wisdom to conceal our meaning. 60

HASTINGS

Away with scrupulous wit! Now arms must rule.

RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER

And fearless minds climb soonest unto crowns.
Brother, we will proclaim you out of hand,
The bruit thereof will bring you many friends.

KING EDWARD

Then be it as you will, for 'tis my right, 65
And Henry but usurps the diadem.

MONTGOMERY

Ay, now my sovereign speaketh like himself,
And now will I be Edward's champion.

HASTINGS

Sound trumpet, Edward shall be here proclaimed.
[To Montgomery]
Come, fellow soldier, make thou proclamation. 70
Flourish

[MONTGOMERY] Edward the Fourth, by the grace of God
King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland±±
And whosoe'er gainsays King Edward's right,
By this I challenge him to single fight.
He throws down his gauntlet

ALL Long live Edward the Fourth! 75

KING EDWARD

Thanks, brave Montgomery, and thanks unto you all.
If fortune serve me I'll requite this kindness.
Now, for this night, let's harbour here in York;
And when the morning sun shall raise his car
Above the border of this horizon, 80
We'll forward towards Warwick and his mates.
For well I wot that Henry is no soldier.
Ah, froward Clarence, how evil it beseems thee
To flatter Henry and forsake thy brother!
Yet, as we may, we'll meet both thee and Warwick. 85
Come on, brave soldiers±±doubt not of the day
And, that once gotten, doubt not of large pay.
Exeunt