

1 Henry IV

2.3

Enter Prince Harry and Poins, disguised in buckram suits

PRINCE HARRY 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. 5
They stand aside.

Enter Sir John Oldcastle, Russell, Harvey, and Gadshill, with the travellers' money

SIR JOHN 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.

As they are sharing, the Prince and Poins set upon them

PRINCE HARRY Your money! 10

POINS Villains!
Gadshill, Russell, and Harvey run away [severally], and Oldcastle, after a blow or two, [roars and] runs away too, leaving the booty behind them

PRINCE HARRY
Got with much ease. Now merrily to horse.
The thieves are all scattered, and possessed with fear
So strongly that they dare not meet each other.
Each takes his fellow for an officer. 15
Away, good Ned. Oldcastle sweats to death,
And lards the lean earth as he walks along.
Were't not for laughing, I should pity him.

POINS
How the fat rogue roared!
Exeunt with the booty