

The First Part of the Contention

4.8

Sound trumpets. Enter King Henry, Queen Margaret, and the Duke of Somerset on the terrace

KING HENRY

Was ever King that joyed an earthly throne
And could command no more content than I?
No sooner was I crept out of my cradle
But I was made a king at nine months old.
Was never subject longed to be a king 5
As I do long and wish to be a subject.

Enter the Duke of Buckingham and Lord Clifford [on the terrace]

BUCKINGHAM (to King Henry)

Health and glad tidings to your majesty.

KING HENRY

Why, Buckingham, is the traitor Cade surprised?
Or is he but retired to make him strong?
Enter, below, multitudes with halters about their necks

CLIFFORD

He is fled, my lord, and all his powers do yield, 10
And humbly thus with halters on their necks
Expect your highness' doom of life or death.

KING HENRY

Then, heaven, set ope thy everlasting gates
To entertain my vows of thanks and praise.
(To the multitudes below)
Soldiers, this day have you redeemed your lives, 15
And showed how well you love your prince and
country.

Continue still in this so good a mind,
And Henry, though he be infortunate,
Assure yourselves will never be unkind.
And so, with thanks and pardon to you all, 20
I do dismiss you to your several countries.

ALL CADE'S FORMER FOLLOWERS God save the King! God
save the King!

[Exeunt multitudes below]
Enter a Messenger [on the terrace]

MESSENGER *(to King Henry)*

Please it your grace to be advertise
The Duke of York is newly come from Ireland, 25
And with a puissant and a mighty power
Of galloglasses and stout Irish kerns
Is marching hitherward in proud array,
And still proclaimeth, as he comes along,
His arms are only to remove from thee 30
The Duke of Somerset, whom he terms a traitor.

KING HENRY

Thus stands my state, 'twixt Cade and York distressed,
Like to a ship that, having scaped a tempest,
Is straightway calmed and boarded with a pirate.
But now is Cade driven back, his men dispersed, 35
And now is York in arms to second him.
I pray thee, Buckingham, go and meet him,
And ask him what's the reason of these arms.
Tell him I'll send Duke Edmund to the Tower;
And, Somerset, we will commit thee thither, 40
Until his army be dismissed from him.

SOMERSET

My lord, I'll yield myself to prison willingly,
Or unto death, to do my country good.

KING HENRY *(to Buckingham)*

In any case, be not too rough in terms,
For he is fierce and cannot brook hard language. 45

BUCKINGHAM

I will, my lord, and doubt not so to deal
As all things shall redound unto your good.

KING HENRY

Come, wife, let's in and learn to govern better;
For yet may England curse my wretched reign.

Flourish. Exeunt