

of Henry the fourth

By heaven me thinks it were an easie leape,
To plucke bright honor from the pale face of death,
Or lye into the bottome of the deepe,
Where fadome line could neuer touch the ground,
And plucke vp drowned honor by the locks,
So he that doth redeeme her thence might weare
Without corruall all her dignities,
But out vpon this halfe face fellowship.
Wor. He apprehends a world of figures here,
But not the forme of what he should attend,
Good coosen giue me audience for a while.
Hot. I cry you mercy.
Wor. Those same noble Scots that are your prisoners.
Hot. Ile keepe them all;
By God he shal not haue a Scot of them,
No, if a Scot would saue his soule he shal not,
Ile keepe them by this hand.
Wor. You, start away,
And lend no care vnto my purposes:
Those prisoners you shal keepe.
Hot. Nay I wil, thats flat:
He said he would not ransom Mortimer,
Forbad my tongue to speake of Mortimer,
But wil find him when he lies asleepe,
And in his care ile hollow Mortimer:
Nay, ile haue a starling shal be taught to speake
Nothing but Mortimer, and giue it him
To keepe his anger stil in motion.
Wor. Heare you coosen a word.
Hot. All studies here I sollemnly defie,
Saue how to gall and pinch this Bullingbrooke,
And that same sword and buckler prince of Wales,
But that I thinke his father loues him not,
And would be glad he met with some mischance:
I would haue him poisoned with a pot of ale.
Wor. Farewel kinsman, ile talke to you
when you are better temperd to attend.

C. 7

Marble

Shakespeare, William. [The hystorie of Henrie the fourth]. [London: Peter Short for Andrew Wise, 1598]. Folger STC 22279a

The First Part of King Henry IV was first published in a quarto in 1598. There is only an 8-page fragment of a single copy of its first printing (Q0, now held at and digitized by the Folger), although complete copies of an edition printed later the same year (Q1) survive. Q1 is the basis for the five quartos that follow—this was a very popular play. The play was included in the 1623 First Folio in a text that was based on Q5, although it introduced act and scene divisions and changed some stage directions.

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