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Title: A Ioyfull medytacyon to all Englonde of the coronacyon of our moost naturall souerayne lorde kynge Henry the eyght

Author: Stephen Hawes

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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A IOYFULL MEDYTACYON TO ALL ENGLONDE OF THE CORONACYON OF OUR MOOST NATURALL SOUERAYNE LORDE KYNGE HENRY THE EYGHTE ***

Spelling and punctuation are unchanged; possible errors are noted with mouse-hover popups. The word shown as **y^e** was printed with the **e** directly above the **y**: **y^e**. Not all browsers can display this form correctly.

Folio numbers have been added by the transcriber. Reconstructions are shown in smaller type. Missing and incomplete lines are explained at the [end of the text](#).



The prologue

The prudent problems / & the noble werkes
Of the gentyll poetes in olde antyquyte
Vnto this day hath made famous clerkes
For the poetes Wrote nothyng in vanyte
But grounded them on good moralyte
Encensynge out the fayre dulcet fume
Our langage rude to exyle and consume

The ryght eloquent poete and monke of bery
Made many fayre bookes / as it is probable
From ydle derkenes / to lyght our emyspery
Whose vertuous pastyme / was moche cōmendable
Presentynge his bookes / gretely prouffyttable
To your worthy predecessour the .v. kynge Henry
whiche regystred is in the courte of memory

Amyddes the medowe of flora the quene
Of the goddes elycon / is the sprynge or well
And by it groweth / a fayre laurell grene
Of whiche the poetes do ofte wryte and tell
Besyde this olyue / I dyde neuer dwell

To tast the water whiche is aromatyke
For to cause me wryte with lusty rethoryke

Wherefore good souerayne / I besече your hyghnes
To pardon me whiche do rudely endyte
As in this arte hauynge small intres
But for to lerne is all myn appetyte
In folowyng the monke whiche dyde nobly wryte
Besechynge your hyghnes and grace debonayre
For to accepte this rude and lytell quayre

¶ Explicit prologus.



God alone in heuen werynge crowne
In whose inspecte is euery regall se
Both to enhaüce & for to cast adowne
Suche is y^e power of thỹ hygh magiste
Neyther hardynes treasour nor dygnyte
May withstande thy strength whiche is ī euery place
So grete and myghty is thy dyuyne grace

Two tytles in one thou dydest well vnyfye
Whan the rede rose toke the whyte in maryage
Reygnyng togyder ryght hygh and noblye
From whose vnyd tytys and worthy lygnage
Descended is by ryght excellent courage
Kynge Henry the .viii. for to reygne doutles
Vnyuersall his fame honour and larges

Whiche hathe spousyd a fayre floure of vertue
Descended of kynges dame katheryn of Spayne
* * * * *

By grace and prudens the peace to attayne
Wherefore Englonde thou nedes not complayne
Syth thou hast crowned openly in syght
This kynge and quene by good true loue and ryght

What sholde I shewe by perambulacyon
All this grete tryumphe of whiche reporte
Is made aboute nowe in euery nacyon
Vnto all this realme to be Ioy and comferte
Wherefore you lordes I humby you exhorte
Spyrytuall and temporall with the comyns vnyfyde
To gyue god the prayse which dothe grace prouyde

Englonde be gladde / the dewe of grace is spred
The dewe of Ioy / the dewe holsome and soote
Dystylled is nowe from the rose so red
And of the whyte so spryngynge from the roote
After our trouble to be refute and boote
This ryall tree was planted as I knowe
By god aboute the rancour to downe throwe

Who is the floure that dothe this grace dystyll
But onely Henry the viii.kynge of his name
With golden droppes all Englonde to fulfill
To shewe his larges his honour and his fame
His dedes therto exemplefye the fame
Wherefore nowe Englonde with hole deuocyon
For this yonge kynge make dayly orayson

Our late souerayne his fader excellent
I knowe ryght well some holde oppynyon
That to auaryce he had entendement
Gadryng grete rychesse of this his regyon
But they lytell knowe by theyr small reason
For what hye entente he gadered doutles
Vnto his grace suche innumerable ryches

For I thynke well and god had sente hym lyfe
As they haue meruaylled moche of this gadryng
So it to them sholde haue ben affyrmatyfe
To haue had grete wonder of his spendyng
It may fortune he thought to haue mouyng
Of mortall warre our fayth to stablysshe
Agaynst the turkes theyr power to mynysshe

But syth that dethe by his course naturall
Hathe hym arested / and wolde not delay

Lyke wyse as he was so be we mortall
How / where / or whan I cam nothyng say
Therefore to god aboue let vs all pray
For to graunt hym mercy whiche was our kynge
Bryngynge his soule to Ioy euerlastinge

A fayre Englonde mystruste the ryght nought
Regarde ryght well / his sonnes Iustyce
Se how that they whyche inuencyons sought
Delytyng them in the synne of auaryce
To oppresse the comyns by grete preiudyce
Dothe he not punyssh them accordyng to lawe
Suche newe promocyons to dampne and withdrawe

Fy on the saturne with thy mysty fume Saturne
Replete with fraude treason and wyckednes
To shewe thy beames thou darest not presume
So cursed thou arte withouten stablenes
Deuoyde of grace fulfilled with doblenes
Thy power to Englonde was neuer amyable
But alwayes euyl vntrue and variable

Now gentyll Iupyer the lodesterre of lyghte Iupyer.
Thy stedfast beames so fayre and so clere
Cast now abrede that we may haue a syght
To gladde vs all whan that they do appere
Sendyng downe trouthe from thy fulgent spere
For to make our hertes mekely to enclyne
To serue our souerayue whiche doth nowe domyne

O myghty Mars o god of the warre Mars
O flambyng honour of euery hardy herte
Sende downe thy power truely from so ferre
Us to encourage that we do not sterte
But by hardynes that we may subuerte
Our soueraynes enemyes to hym contraryous
By bataylles fyrse ryghtfull and rygorous

And thou fayre bright / and aureate phebus Phebus
Encrease now lyght with loue and honoure
Amonge the lordes so gay and gloryus
With thy radyant beames so hie of faouere
Deuoydng all trechery debate and rancoure
Any yllumyne the mynde with lyberalyte
Of our good souerayne with welth and vnyte

And lady Venus with thy sone Cupyde Venus.
Of euery lorde do nowe the herte enspyre
With feruent loue that he do not slyde
And of the comyns set the hertes on fyre
To loue our souerayne with theyr hole desyre
Folowyng his grace with dulcet armonye
To the ryghtfull waye withouten Ieoperdye

Also thou Mercury the god of eloquence Mercury
The gentyll sterre of grace and vertue
Thy beames of ryght peace and conscyence
On our kynges counsayll downe send and renue
The trouthe of Iustyce / that they may extue
For to do wronge by the synne of couetyce
That here before hathe done grete preiudyce

An thou watery dyane of the se the goddes Luna.
With thy broder eolus the god of the wynde
Encourage the hertes by in warde hardynes
Of * * * * *

And enmyes ryse that they be not behynde
Them for to chace and the se to scoure
By grace and fortune in many a stormy stoure

O god aboue / trononyed in heuen
In whose wyll resteth euery thyng alone
The skye / the erthe / with all the planettes seuen
Without whose grace / comforte haue we none
As thou arte thre enclusyd in one
So saue our souerayne / from all maner wo
And this his realme from mortall warre also

Holy chirche reioyce / with all your lyberteetes
Withouten dōmage / the kynge wyll ye encrease
And be your shelde from all aduersytees
No wronge shall be but he wyll it soone seace
Knyttyng the knotte of fayth loue and peace
Bytwene you and hym without dysturbaunce
So for to endure by longe contynuaunce

Ryght myghty prynce our good souerayne lorde
To god enclynyng be hardy and gladde
Of you and your realme he wyll se concorde
Though other nacyons be therfore full sadde
Agaynst you murmuryng with theyr werkes badde
Yet drede ye nothyng for god with his myght
Wyll be alwaye redy to defende the ryght

Ryght noble / wyse / and excellent pryncesse
Ryght benygne lady / lyberall and vertuous
Dyscended lynyally of the lyne of noblenesse
Fayre quene katheryne so swete adn precyous
To our souerayne espoused with loy solacyous
Almyghty god gyue grace to myltyplye
From you your stoures to reyne ryght ryally

And lady Mary prynces ryght beauteous
Indued with honour / vertue / and prudence
Ryght meke / goodly / gentyll and gracyous
Syster ryght dere vnto the excellence
Of our good souerayne / surmountyng in sapyence
Ryght fayre younge lady / the grete lorde aboue
He graunte you grace / hygh fame / fortune / and loue

And all you lordes and laydes honourable
And you noble knyghtes so hauntyng chyalry
Unto our souerayne be meke and tendable
Whiche wyll rewarde you well and nobly
As to shewe his largesse vnyuersally
Encouragyng your hertes that courage chyualrous
In tyme of batayll for to be vycorious

And all ye offycers of euery degree
Beware extorcyon, for and it be knowen
No doute it is but ye shall punysshed be
Take hede of them / the whiche be ouerthrowen
Remembre well how fortune hathe blowen
The promoters downe / and castyng them full lowe
In folowyng them ye shall fall as I trowe

Englonde be true and loue well eche other
Obey your souerayne / and god omnypotent
Whiche is aboue / of all the worlde the rother
Wyll sende you welth / from whome all good is sente
He gyue vs grace to kepe his cōmaundement
And saue our souerayne / with his semely quene
With all theyr bloode / without trouble and tene

¶ Amen.

¶ Excusacio auctoris

¶ Go lytell treatyse submyt the humbly
To our souerayne lorde / to be in his presence
Besechyng his grace to accepte the mekely
And to pardon thy rudenes and neclygence

* * * * *

To compyle those maters whiche sholde pleasure be
Unto his hyghnes and regall maieste

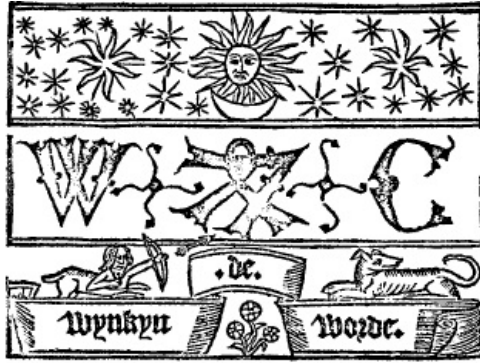
Now ye fayre laydes, wyse and vertuous
I ryght humbly praye you for to condyscende
To accepte my makyng nothyng facundious
I wolde that fortune wolde connynge extende
That myn endytyng I myght than amende
To dyrecte my maters after your pleasaunce
Whiche yet replete am with all ygnoraunce

A M E N

¶ Thus endeth this Ioyfull medytacyon made & compyled

by Stephen hawes somtyme grome of y^e chambre of our
late souerayne lorde kynge Henry y^e seuenth

¶ Enprynted at London in y^e fletestrete at y^e sygne of the
sonne by wynkyn de worde.



About the Text

Title Page text:

¶ A loyfull medytacyon to all Englonde
of the coronacyon of our moost naturall
souerayne lorde kynge Henry the eyght.

Borders: In the surviving text, the decorative border appears along the top and sides of the first page, and around all sides of the last page. The first page probably had a lower border as well. The continuous left border was added by the transcriber.

Page A2 verso

How / where / or whan I **cam** nothyng say

The word “cam” could be read as “cain” with missing dot, but an unambiguous letter “m” with the same defect appears several other times on this page.

**How/where/or whan I cam nothyng say
Therfore to god aboue let vs all pray
For to graunt hym mercy whiche was our kynge**

Damaged Lines: The original text was published as an eight-page pamphlet. In the surviving copy, used as the basis for facsimile reprints, the bottoms of all pages have been cropped. A total of three lines—as deduced from the verse structure—are entirely missing, and a further three have been reconstructed from their surviving portions. Folio numbers would have appeared at the very bottom of the page.

Page A1 verso

(A further line is entirely missing)

**Whiche hathe spoutyd a fayre flour of vertue
Descended of kynges dame katheryn of Spayne**

Page A2

For I thynke well and god had sente hym lyfe

Page A3 verso

**And lady Mary prynces ryght beauteuous
Indued with honour/vertue and prudence**

Page A3

**Encourage the hertes by in warde hardynes
Of our kynges**

The single word “Of” seems secure. The words “our kynges”, copied from further up the same page, are included because they happen to fit. They should not be taken as a serious attempt at reconstruction.

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A IOYFULL MEDYTACYON TO ALL
ENGLONDE OF THE CORONACYON OF OUR MOOST NATURALL SOUERAYNE LORDE KYNGE
HENRY THE EYGH ***

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