

A hundred almshouses right well supplied;  
And to the coffers of the King beside,  
A thousand pounds by th' year. Thus runs the bill.

*Ely.* This would drink deep.

20 *Canterbury.* 'Twould drink the cup and all.

*Ely.* But what prevention?

*Canterbury.* The King is full of grace and fair regard.

*Ely.* And a true lover of the holy Church.

*Canterbury.* The courses of his youth promised it not.

25 The breath no sooner left his father's body  
But that his wildness, mortified<sup>o</sup> in him,  
Seemed to die too; yea, at that very moment  
Consideration<sup>o</sup> like an angel came  
And whipped th' offending Adam<sup>o</sup> out of him,  
Leaving his body as a paradise  
T' envelop and contain celestial spirits.  
Never was such a sudden scholar made;  
Never came reformation in a flood  
With such a heady currance<sup>o</sup> scouring faults;  
Nor never Hydra-headed<sup>o</sup> willfulness  
30 So soon did lose his seat<sup>o</sup>—and all at once—  
As in this king.

*Ely.* We are blessed in the change.

*Canterbury.* Hear him but reason<sup>o</sup> in divinity,

40 And, all-admiring, with an inward wish  
You would desire the King were made a prelate;  
Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,  
You would say it hath been all in all<sup>o</sup> his study;  
List<sup>o</sup> his discourse of war, and you shall hear  
A fearful battle rend' red you in music;<sup>o</sup>

22 regard repute 26 mortified dead (a religious usage) 28 Consideration meditation 29 whipped th' offending Adam drove original sin 34 heady currance headlong current 35 Hydra-headed Hydra was a mythological beast with nine heads, growing two more for every one cut off 36 seat throne 38 reason debate 42 all in all all things in all respects 43 List listen to 44 rend' red you in music recounted with harmonious and stirring eloquence

7 Turn him to any cause of policy,<sup>o</sup>

8 The Gordian knot<sup>o</sup> of it he will unloose.

9 Familiar as his garter; that when he speaks,

10 The air, a chartered libertine,<sup>o</sup> is still,

11 And the mute wonder<sup>o</sup> lurketh in men's ears

12 To steal his sweet and honeyed sentences;<sup>o</sup>

13 So that the art and practic part of life

14 Must be the mistress to this theoretic;<sup>o</sup>

15 Which is a wonder how his Grace<sup>o</sup> should glean it,

16 Since his addiction was to courses vain,

17 His companies<sup>o</sup> unlettered, rude, and shallow,

18 His hours filled up with riots, banquets, sports;

19 And never noted in him any study,

20 Any retirement, any sequestration

21 From open haunts and popularity.<sup>o</sup>

60 *Ely.* The strawberry grows underneath the nettle,

61 And wholesome berries thrive and ripen best

62 Neighbored by fruit of baser quality;

63 And so the Prince obscured his contemplation<sup>o</sup>

64 Under the veil of wildness, which (no doubt)

65 Grew like the summer grass, fastest by night,

66 Unseen, yet crecive in his faculty.<sup>o</sup>

*Canterbury.* It must be so, for miracles are ceased;<sup>o</sup>

67 And therefore we must needs admit the means<sup>o</sup>

68 How things are perfected.

*Ely.*

But, my good lord,

69 How now for mitigation of this bill

45 cause of policy political problem 46 Gordian knot (tied by Gordius when chosen King of Gordium; the oracle declared that whoever loosened it would rule Asia. Alexander the Great cut through it with his sword) 48 chartered libertine one licensed to go his own way 49 wonder wonderer 50 sentences sayings 51-52 art ... theoretic practice and experience must have taught him theory 53 Grace Majesty (a formal title) 55 companies companions 59 open haunts and popularity public places and familiarity 63 contemplation study of life 66 crecive in his faculty growing because that is its nature 67 miracles are ceased (protestants believed miracles ceased to occur after the revelation of Christ) 68 means i.e., natural cause

Gordian knot