

HOTSPUR In faith, it is exceedingly well aimed.
 WORCESTER And 'tis no little reason bids us speed
 To save our heads by raising of a head;¹
 For, bear ourselves as even² as we can,
 The King will always think him in our debt,
 And think we think ourselves unsatisfied
 Till he hath found a time to pay us home.³
 And see already how he doth begin
 To make us strangers to his looks of love.
 HOTSPUR He does, he does. We'll be revenged on him.
 WORCESTER Cousin, farewell. No further go in this
 Than I by letters shall direct your course.
 When time is ripe, which will be suddenly,⁴
 I'll steal to Glyndŵr and Lord Mortimer,
 Where you and Douglas and our powers at once,
 As I will fashion it, shall happily meet,
 To bear our fortunes in our own strong arms,
 Which now we hold at⁵ much uncertainty.
 NORTHUMBERLAND Farewell, good brother. We shall thrive, I trust.
 HOTSPUR [to WORCESTER] Uncle, adieu. O, let the hours be short
 Till fields⁶ and blows and groans applaud our sport!
 HOTSPUR I cry you mercy.
 WORCESTER *Exeunt [WORCESTER at one door, NORTHUMBERLAND and HOTSPUR at another door]*

2.1

Enter a CARRIER, with a lantern in his hand
 FIRST CARRIER Heigh-ho! An't⁷ be not four by the day,⁸ I'll be⁹ If it / in the morning hanged. Charles's Wain² is over the new chimney, and yet our horses not packed. What, ostler!³ Will *Right away*
 OSTLER [within] Anon,⁹ anon!
 FIRST CARRIER I prithee, Tom, beat cut's saddle,⁴ put a few flocks in the point.⁵ Poor jade is wrung in the withers,⁶ out of all cess.⁸ *measure*
 Forbad *Enter another CARRIER*
 SECOND CARRIER Peas and beans⁹ are as dank here as a dog, (horse feed)
 and that is the next way to give poor jades the bots.⁹ This intestinal worms house is turned upside down since Robin Ostler died.
 FIRST CARRIER Poor fellow never joyed since the price of oats rose; it was the death of him.
 SECOND CARRIER I think this be the most villainous house in all London road for fleas. I am stung like a tench.⁷
 FIRST CARRIER Like a tench? By the mass, there is ne'er a king christen⁹ could be better bit than I have been since the first cock.⁹ *midnight*
 I would have him powdered with a pot of adie.⁹ *To join with Mortimer, psj*
 WORCESTER Farewell, knave. *Absurd oaths*

When you are better tempered to attend.

2.1 Location: An innyard in Rochester, Kent. ¹ One who transports goods for hire.

² The constellation now known as the Plow or the Great Bear.

³ One who attends to horses at an inn.

⁴ Soften the horse's saddle. "Cut" was a term for a horse with a docked tail or a gelding; here, it may be the

horse's name.

⁵ Put a few tufts of wood in the saddle's pommel (to soften it).

⁶ The poor old horse is extremely sore in the ridge between its shoulder blades.

⁷ A spotted fish whose markings may have looked like flea bites.

SECOND CARRIER Why, they will allow us ne'er a jordan,⁸ and then we leak⁹ in your chimney, and your chamber-lye¹⁰ breeds fleas like a loach.⁸

FIRST CARRIER What, ostler! Come away, and be hanged, come away!

SECOND CARRIER I have a gammon of bacon⁹ and two rases¹¹ of ginger to be delivered as far as Charing Cross.⁹

FIRST CARRIER God's body, the turkeys in my pannier¹² are quite starved! What, ostler! A plague on thee, hast thou never an eye in thy head? Canst not hear? An^o 'twere not as good deed as drink to break the pate^o on thee, I am a very villain. Come, and be hanged! Hast no faith^o in thee?

Enter GADSHILL

GADSHILL Good morrow, carriers. What's o'clock?

FIRST CARRIER I think it be two o'clock.

GADSHILL I prithee lend me thy lantern to see my gelding in the stable.

FIRST CARRIER Nay, by God, soft.^o I know a trick worth two of that, i'faith.

GADSHILL [to SECOND CARRIER] I pray thee, lend me thine.

SECOND CARRIER Ay, when? Canst tell?¹³ 'Lend me thy lantern,' quoth a.^o Marry, I'll see thee hanged first.

GADSHILL Sirrah carrier, what time do you mean to come to London?

SECOND CARRIER Time enough to go to bed with a candle, I warrant^o thee.—Come, neighbour Mugs, we'll call up the gentlemen. They will along^o with company, for they have great charge.^o

Exeunt [CARRIERS]

GADSHILL What ho, chamberlain!¹²

Enter CHAMBERLAIN

CHAMBERLAIN 'At hand' quoth Pickpurse.³

GADSHILL That's even as fair^o as "'At hand'" quoth the chamberlain', for thou variest no more from picking of purses than giving direction doth from labouring:⁴ thou layest the plot^o how.

CHAMBERLAIN Good morrow, Master Gadhill. It holds current that^o I told you yesternight. There's a franklin⁵ in the Weald⁵ of Kent hath brought three hundred marks⁶ with him in gold. I heard him tell it to one of his company last night at supper—a kind of auditor, one that hath abundance of charge too, God knows what. They are up already, and call for eggs and butter; they will away presently.

GADSHILL Sirrah, if they meet not with Saint Nicholas's clerks,⁷ I'll give thee this neck.

CHAMBERLAIN No, I'll none of it; I pray thee keep that for the hangman, for I know thou worshippest Saint Nicholas as truly as a man of falsehood may.

8. A fish. The comparison means that urine breeds fleas either as a loach breeds loaches or as a loach breeds fleas. There was a popular belief that some fish spawned flies or fleas.

9. A marketplace between London and Westminster.

1. A retort similar to "Never."

2. Bedroom attendant. In popular discourse, chamberlains were notorious for their complicity with thieves.

3. "I am at your disposal," as the thief said (evidently a chamber pot urinate / urine).

sters, and other public places.

7. When a plot (to rob) is "assured," it goes well; Highwaysman who leaves no foot (leaves) on popular tag).

4. For you are not more different from a pickpocket than an overseer is from a laborer.

5. There's a small landowner in the wooded region.

6. Coins worth two-thirds of a pound each.

7. Slang for "highway robbers." St. Nicholas was variously regarded as the patron saint of travelers and of thieves.

GADSHILL What talkest thou to me of the hangman? If I hang,
I'll make a fat pair of gallows, for if I hang, old Sir John hangs
with me, and thou knowest he's no starveling. Tut, therē are
other Trojans⁸ that thou dreamest not of, the which° for sport'
sake are content to do the profession° some grace, that would,
if matters should be looked into, for their own credit' sake
make all whole.° I am joined with no foot-landrakers,⁹ no
long-staff sixpenny strikers,¹ none of these mad mustachio
purple-hued maltworms,² but with nobility and tranquillity,
burgomasters and great 'oyez'-ers;³ such as can hold in,[°] such
as will strike sooner than speak, and speak sooner than drink,
and drink sooner than pray. And yet, zounds, I lie, for they
pray continually to their saint the commonwealth; or rather,
not pray to her, but prey on her; for they ride up and down⁴
on her and make her their boots.[°]

CHAMBERLAIN What, the commonwealth their boots? Will she
hold out water in foul way?⁵

GADSHILL She will, she will, justice hath liquored her.⁶ We steal
as in a castle,[°] cocksure; we have the recipe of fern-seed,⁷ we
walk invisible.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, by my faith, I think you are more beholden
to the night than to fern-seed for your walking invisible.

GADSHILL Give me thy hand; thou shalt have a share in our
purchase,[°] as I am a true man.

CHAMBERLAIN Nay, rather let me have it as you are a false thief.

GADSHILL Go to, 'homo'[°] is a common name to all men. Bid the
ostler bring my gelding out of the stable. Farewell, you muddy[°]
knaves.

Exeunt [severally]

2.2

Enter PRINCE [HARRY], POINS, PETO [and BARDOLPH]¹

POINS Come, shelter, shelter!

[Exeunt PETO and BARDOLPH at another door]

I have removed Falstaff's horse, and he frets[°] like a gummed
velvet.²

PRINCE HARRY Stand close![°] *[Exit POINS]*

Enter FALSTAFF

FALSTAFF Poins! Poins, and be hanged! Poins!

PRINCE HARRY Peace, ye fat-kidneyed rascal! What a brawling
dost thou keep!

FALSTAFF Where's Poins, Hal?

PRINCE HARRY He is walked up to the top of the hill. I'll go seek
him.

[Exit]

8. Slang for "roisterers."

9. Highwaymen who travel on foot (rather than on horse).

1. Thieves who carried crude weapons and robbed for small sums.

2. These drunkards with wild mustaches and purple faces.

3. Court officials who cried "Oyez," or "Hear ye."

4. They travel (with a pun on "ride" as meaning "to mount sexually").

5. Will she keep water out (off your feet) on a muddy

road; will she protect you in difficulty?

6. Greased her (as one waterproofs leather); bribed her.

7. Popularly supposed to make those who wore it invisible.

2.2 Location: The highway, Gad's Hill.

1. For a discussion of the names of "Bardolph" and "Peto," see the Textual Note and Introduction.

2. Like cheap velvet treated with gum. Gummed velvet was shiny but wore out quickly.

FALSTAFF I am accursed to rob in that thief's company. The rascal hath removed my horse and tied him I know not where. If I travel but four foot by the square^o further afoot, I shall break my wind.^o Well, I doubt not but to die a fair death, for³ be breathless; fart all this—if I scape hanging for killing that rogue. I have forsworn his company hourly any time this two-and-twenty years, and yet I am bewitched with the rogue's company. If the rascal have not given me medicines^o to make me love him, I'll be hanged. It could not be else: I have drunk medicines.

20 Poins! Hal! A plague upon you both! Bardolph! Peto! I'll starve ere I'll rob a foot further. An 'twere not as good a deed as drink to turn true man^o and to leave these rogues, I am the veriest varlet that ever chewed with a tooth. Eight yards of uneven ground is threescore and ten miles afoot with me, and the stony-hearted villains know it well enough. A plague upon't when thieves cannot be true one to another!

And *They whistle.* [Enter PRINCE HARRY, POINS, PETO, and BARDOLPH]⁴

Whew! A plague upon you all! Give me my horse, you rogues, give me my horse, and be hanged!

PRINCE HARRY Peace, ye fat-guts. Lie down, lay thine ear close to the ground, and list if thou canst hear the tread of travellers.

FALSTAFF Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down? 'Sblood, I'll not bear my own flesh so far afoot again for all the coin in thy father's exchequer. What a plague mean ye to colt^o me thus?

PRINCE HARRY Thou liest: thou art not colted, thou art uncolted.^o

FALSTAFF I prithee, good Prince Hal, help me to my horse, good king's son.

PRINCE HARRY Out, ye rogue, shall I be your ostler?

40 FALSTAFF Hang thyself in thine own heir-apparent garters!⁵ If I be ta'en, I'll peach^o for this. An I have not ballads made on you all and sung to filthy tunes,⁶ let a cup of sack be my poison. When a jest is so forward, and afoot too!⁷ I hate it.

*Enter GADSHILL [visored].*⁸ wearing a mask

GADSHILL Stand!

45 FALSTAFF So I do, against my will.

POINS O, 'tis our setter,^o I know his voice. Gadshill, what news?

GADSHILL⁸ Case ye,^o case ye, on with your visors! There's money of the King's coming down the hill; 'tis going to the

50 King's exchequer.

FALSTAFF You lie, ye rogue, 'tis going to the King's tavern.

3. Die a natural death, despite.

4. It is not clear exactly when the Prince and his companions show themselves to the frustrated Falstaff. They can all enter here, or the Prince and Poins could enter at line 28 and Bardolph and Peto at the same time as Gadshill at line 43.

5. Falstaff's version of the proverb "He may hang himself in his own garters." As the heir to the throne, the Prince was a member of the Order of the Garter, the highest order of English knighthood.

6. Ballads on topical themes were sung by ballad singers and sold cheaply as broadsides in streets, the-

aters, and other public places.

7. When a plot (to rob) is so advanced and goes so well; when a joke (on me) goes so far and makes me go on foot.

8. In Q, this speech is assigned to Bardolph; but Poins has just asked Gadshill a question, so one expects an answer to come from him. It has been conjectured that the confusion here may reflect confusion in Shakespeare's foul papers about whether Bardolph and Gadshill were to be two characters or one. See note to 2.5.159.

GADSHILL There's enough to make^o us all.

FALSTAFF To be hanged.

[They put on visors]

PRINCE HARRY Sirs, you four shall front^o them in the narrow lane. Ned Poins and I will walk lower. If they scape from your encounter, then they light on us.

PETO How many be there of them?

GADSHILL Some eight or ten.

FALSTAFF Zounds, will they not rob us?

PRINCE HARRY What, a coward, Sir John Paunch?

FALSTAFF Indeed I am not John of Gaunt⁹ your grandfather, but yet no coward, Hal.

PRINCE HARRY Well, we leave that to the proof.^o

POINS Sirrah Jack, thy horse stands behind the hedge. When^o thou needest him, there thou shalt find him. Farewell, and stand fast.

FALSTAFF Now cannot I strike him if I should be hanged.

PRINCE HARRY [aside to POINS] Ned, where are our disguises?

POINS [aside to the PRINCE] Here, hard by. Stand close. [Exeunt the PRINCE and POINS]

FALSTAFF Now, my masters, happy man be his dole,¹ say I; every man to his business.

[They stand aside.]

Enter the TRAVELLERS [amongst them the CARRIERS]

FIRST TRAVELLER Come, neighbour, the boy shall lead our horses down the hill. We'll walk afoot a while, and ease their legs.

THIEVES [coming forward] Stand!

SECOND TRAVELLER Jesus bless us!

FALSTAFF Strike, down with them, cut the villains' throats! Ah, whoreson caterpillars,² bacon-fed knaves! They hate us youth. Down with them, fleece them!

FIRST TRAVELLER O, we are undone, both we and ours for ever!

FALSTAFF Hang ye, gorbellied^o knaves, are ye undone? No, ye potbellied fat chuffs;³ I would your store^o were here. On, bacons,^o on! all you own / fat men What, ye knaves! Young men must live. You are grand-jurors,⁴ are ye? We'll jure ye, faith.

Here they rob them and bind them. Exeunt [the THIEVES with the TRAVELLERS]

2.3

Enter PRINCE [HARRY] and POINS [disguised in buckram suits]

PRINCE HARRY The thieves have bound the true^o men; now could thou and I rob the thieves, and go merrily to London. It would be argument^o for a week, laughter for a month, and a good jest for ever.

POINS Stand close; I hear them coming.

[They stand aside]

Enter [FALSTAFF, BARDOLPH, PETO, and GADSHILL, with the travellers' money]

9. Henry IV's father. Falstaff puns on "Gaunt" as meaning "lean"; in fact, his name is derived from "Ghent," his birthplace.

1. Proverbial expression meaning "Good luck to everyone."

2. Parasites. *whoreson*: an insult derived from "whore's

son."

3. Rude, churlish fellows; misers.

4. Referring to the fact that only prosperous citizens served on grand juries.

2.3 Location: Scene continues.

FALSTAFF Come, my masters, let us share, and then to horse before day. An^o the Prince and Poins be not two arrant cowards, there's no equity stirring.^o There's no more valour in that Poins than in a wild duck.

As they are sharing, the PRINCE and POINS set upon them

10 PRINCE HARRY Your money!

POINS Villains!

They all [GADSHILL, BARDOLPH, and PETO] run away [severally] and FALSTAFF, 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. 15 Each takes his fellow for an officer. Away, good Ned. Falstaff sweats to death, And lards^o 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]*

2.4

Enter HOTSPUR, reading a letter

HOTSPUR 'But for mine own part, my lord, I could be well contented to be there, in respect of^o the love I bear your house.'—

because of / family

He could be contented; why is he not then? In respect of the love he bears our house! He shows in this he loves his own barn better than he loves our house. Let me see some more.—'The purpose you undertake is dangerous'— Why, that's certain: 'tis dangerous to take a cold, to sleep, to drink; but I tell you, my lord fool, out of this nettle danger we pluck this flower safety.—

'The purpose you undertake is dangerous, the friends you have named uncertain, the time itself unsorted,^o and your

unsuitable

whole plot too light for the counterpoise of^o so great an opposition.'— Say you so, say you so? I say unto you again, you

to counterbalance

are a shallow, cowardly hind,^o and you lie. What a lack-brain is this! By the Lord, our plot is a good plot as ever was laid,

HOTSPUR

our friends true and constant; a good plot, good friends, and full of expectation; an excellent plot, very good friends. What

HOTSPUR

a frosty-spirited rogue is this! Why, my lord of York^o commends the plot and the general course of the action. Zounds, an I

(Archbishop Scrope)

were now by this rascal, I could brain him with his lady's fan! Is there not my father, my uncle, and myself? Lord Edmund

HOTSPUR

Mortimer, my lord of York, and Owain Glyndŵr? Is there not besides the Douglas? Have I not all their letters, to meet me

HOTSPUR

in arms by the ninth of the next month? And are they not some of them set forward already? What a pagan rascal is this,

HOTSPUR

an infidel! Ha, you shall see now, in very sincerity of fear and cold heart will he to the King, and lay open all our proceedings!

HOTSPUR

O, I could divide myself and go to buffets¹ for moving^o such a dish of skim-milk with so honourable an action! Hang

HOTSPUR

him! Let him tell the King we are prepared; I will set forward tonight.

HOTSPUR

Enter his Lady [LADY PERCY]

2.4 Location: The Percys' home, Warkworth Castle, in Northumberland.

1. I could split myself into two and fall to blows with myself.

How now, Kate? I must leave you within these two hours.

LADY PERCY O my good lord, why are you thus alone?
For what offence have I this fortnight been
A banished woman from my Harry's bed?

Tell me, sweet lord, what is't that takes from thee
Thy stomach,° pleasure, and thy golden sleep?
Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the earth,
And start so often when thou sitt'st alone?
Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy cheeks,
And given my treasures and my rights² of thee
To thick-eyed° musing and curst melancholy?
In thy faint° slumbers I by thee have watched,
And heard thee murmur tales of iron wars,
Speak terms of manège° to thy bounding steed,
Cry 'Courage! To the field!' And thou hast talked
Of sallies and retires,° of trenches, tents,
Of palisadoes,³ frontiers,° parapets,
Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin,⁴
Of prisoners ransomed, and of soldiers slain,
And all the currents of a heady° fight.
Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war,
And thus hath so bestirred thee in thy sleep,
That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow
Like bubbles in a late-disturbèd° stream;
And in thy face strange motions have appeared,
Such as we see when men restrain their breath
On some great sudden hest.° O, what portents are these?
Some heavy° business hath my lord in hand,
And I must know it, else he loves me not.

HOTSPUR What ho!

[Enter SERVANT]

Is Gilliams with the packet gone?

SERVANT He is, my lord, an hour ago.

HOTSPUR Hath Butler brought those horses from the sheriff?

SERVANT One horse, my lord, he brought even now.

HOTSPUR What horse? A roan, a crop-ear, is it not?

SERVANT It is, my lord.

HOTSPUR That roan shall be my throne.
Well, I will back him straight.—O, *Esperance!*⁵—
Bid Butler lead him forth into the park.

LADY PERCY But hear you, my lord.

HOTSPUR What sayst thou, my lady?

LADY PERCY What is it carries you away?

HOTSPUR Why, my horse,
My love, my horse.

LADY PERCY Out, you mad-headed ape!
A weasel⁶ hath not such a deal of spleen°
As you are tossed with.
In faith, I'll know your business, Harry, that I will.

2. Marriage rights. Alluding to the belief that husbands and wives owe a mutual marriage debt that obliges them regularly to engage in sexual relations with one another.

3. Pointed stakes driven into the ground as defensive barriers.

4. basilisks: large cannons, named after a deadly

mythological reptile. *culverin*: a name for both a kind of long cannon and a firearm noted for its ability to fire over a long range.

5. Referring to the Percy motto *Esperance ma conforte*, or "Hope is my reliance."

6. Weasels were proverbially quarrelsome.

I fear my brother Mortimer doth stir
 About his title, and hath sent for you
 To line^o his enterprise; but if you go—

HOTSPUR So far afoot? I shall be weary, love.^o
 Come, come, you paraquito,^o answer me

LADY PERCY Directly to this question that I ask.
 In faith, I'll break thy little finger,^o Harry,
 An if thou wilt not tell me all things true.

HOTSPUR Away, away, you trifler! Love? I love thee not,
 I care not for thee, Kate. This is no world
 To play with maumets⁷ and to tilt⁸ with lips,
 We must have bloody noses and cracked crowns,⁸
 And pass them current,⁹ too. God's me,^o my horse!—

What sayst thou, Kate? What wouldst thou have with me?

LADY PERCY Do you not love me? Do you not indeed?
 Well, do not, then, for since you love me not
 I will not love myself. Do you not love me?
 Nay, tell me if you speak in jest or no.

HOTSPUR Come, wilt thou see me ride?
 And when I am a-horseback,¹ I will swear
 I love thee infinitely. But hark you, Kate.

I must not have you henceforth question me
 Whither I go, nor reason whereabout.^o
 Whither I must, I must; and, to conclude,
 This evening must I leave you, gentle Kate.
 I know you wise, but yet no farther wise
 Than Harry Percy's wife; constant you are,
 But yet a woman;² and for secrecy
 No lady closer,^o for I well believe
 Thou wilt not utter what thou dost not know.
 And so far will I trust thee, gentle Kate.

LADY PERCY How, so far?

HOTSPUR Not an inch further. But hark you, Kate,
 Whither I go, thither shall you go too.
 Today will I set forth, tomorrow you.
 Will this content you, Kate?

LADY PERCY It must, of force.^o

2.5

Enter PRINCE [HARRY]

PRINCE HARRY Ned, prithee come out of that fat^o room, and
 lend me thy hand to laugh a little.

Enter POINS [at another door]

POINS Where hast been, Hal?

PRINCE HARRY With three or four loggerheads,^o amongst three
 or fourscore hogsheads.^o I have sounded the very bass-string of
 humility. Sirrah, I am sworn brother to a leash of drawers,^o and
 can call them all by their christen names, as 'Tom', 'Dick', and
 'Francis'. They take it already, upon their salvation, that

7. Breasts; dolls; false gods. The term derived from "mahomet," whom English Protestants viewed as a false god worshipped by heathen peoples.

8. Punning on "cracked crowns" as meaning "broken heads" and "counterfeit currency." Hotspur may be alluding to the acts of rape associated with warfare: "nose" is slang for "penis," and a "cracked crown" can

mean a "whore" or "deflowered woman."

9. Establish them as the norm; let them circulate.

1. On my horse; having sexual intercourse.

2. Women were assumed to be great talkers who could keep no secrets.

2.5 Location: An inn in Eastcheap, London.

though I be but Prince of Wales yet I am the king of courtesy,¹
 10 and tell me flatly I am no proud jack^o like Falstaff, but a fellow
 Corinthian,¹ a lad of mettle, a good boy—by the Lord, so they
 call me; and when I am King of England I shall command all
 15 the good lads in Eastcheap. They call drinking deep ‘dyeing
 scarlet’,² and when you breathe in your watering³ they cryt of
 ‘Hem!’ and bid you ‘Play it off!’^o To conclude, I am so good
 20 proficient in one quarter of an hour that I can drink with any
 tinker^o in his own language during my life. I tell thee, Ned,⁴ thou hast lost much honour that thou wert not with me in this
 25 action. But, sweet Ned—to sweeten which name of Ned I give
 thee this penny-worth of sugar,⁴ clapped even now into my hand by an underskinker,^o one that never spake other English
 30 in his life than ‘Eight shillings and sixpence’, and ‘You are welcome’, with this shrill addition, ‘Anon,^o anon, sir! Score^o a pint of bastard⁵ in the Half-moon!⁶ or so. But, Ned, to drive away the time till Falstaff come, I prithee do thou stand in some by-room, while I question my puny^o drawer to what end he gave me the sugar, and do thou never leave calling ‘Francis!

POINS [within] Francis!

PRINCE HARRY Thou art perfect.

POINS [within] Francis!

Enter [FRANCIS, a] drawer

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir!—Look down into the Pomegranate,⁷ Ralph!

PRINCE HARRY Come hither, Francis.

FRANCIS My lord.

PRINCE HARRY How long hast thou to serve,⁸ Francis?

FRANCIS Forsooth, five years, and as much as to—

POINS [within] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir!

PRINCE HARRY Five year! By'r Lady,⁹ a long lease for the clinking of pewter. But Francis, darest thou be so valiant as to play the coward with thy indenture,^o and show it a fair pair of contract heels, and run from it?

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, I'll be sworn upon all the books^o in England, I could find in my heart—

POINS [within] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir!

PRINCE HARRY How old art thou, Francis?

FRANCIS Let me see, about Michaelmas¹ next I shall be—

POINS [within] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, sir! [To the PRINCE] Pray, stay a little, my lord.

(Bibles)

1. A rich, licentious man. In contemporary texts, ancient Corinth was famous for wealth and sensuality.
2. Referring to the ruddy complexion associated with drunkards or to the fact that urine, a product of drink, was used to dye wool.
3. When you pause to breathe in your drink.
4. Tapsters sold sugar to sweeten wine.
5. A Spanish wine, so named because it was mixed or adulterated with honey.
6. Name of the inn room to which the wine is to be charged.
7. Name of another room in the inn.
8. Serve as apprentice. Apprenticeship typically began at age twelve or fourteen and lasted seven years.
9. By our Lady (an oath invoking the Virgin Mary).
1. September 29, a holy day honoring the archangel Michael and signifying to tradespeople the close of an accounting period.

PRINCE HARRY Nay, but hark you, Francis. For the sugar thou
gavest me, 'twas a pennyworth, was't not?

FRANCIS O Lord, I would it had been two!

PRINCE HARRY I will give thee for it a thousand pound. Ask me
when thou wilt, and thou shalt have it—

POINS [within] Francis!

FRANCIS Anon, anon!

PRINCE HARRY Anon, Francis? No, Francis, but tomorrow,
Francis; or, Francis, o' Thursday; or, indeed, Francis, when
thou wilt. But Francis.

FRANCIS My lord.

PRINCE HARRY Wilt thou rob this leather-jerkin, crystal-
button, knot-pated, agate-ring, puke-stockings, caddis-garter,
smooth-tongue, Spanish-pouch?²

FRANCIS O Lord, sir, who do you mean?

PRINCE HARRY Why, then, your brown bastard is your only
drink!³ For look you, Francis, your white canvas doublet will
sully.⁴ In Barbary,⁵ sir, it cannot come to⁶ so much.

FRANCIS What, sir?

POINS [within] Francis!

PRINCE HARRY Away, you rogue! Dost thou not hear them call?

[As he departs POINS and the PRINCE] both call him. The
Drawer stands amazed, not knowing which way to go.

Enter VINTNER.

VINTNER What, standest thou still, and hearest such a calling?

Look to the guests within! [Exit FRANCIS]

My lord, old Sir John with half a dozen more are at the door.
Shall I let them in?

PRINCE HARRY Let them alone a while, and then open the door,

[Exit VINTNER]

Poins!

POINS [within] Anon, anon, sir!

Enter POINS

PRINCE HARRY Sirrah, Falstaff and the rest of the thieves are at
the door. Shall we be merry?

POINS As merry as crickets, my lad. But hark ye, what cunning
match⁷ have you made with this jest of the drawer? Come,

what's the issue?⁸

PRINCE HARRY I am now of all humours that have showed
themselves humours⁹ since the old days of goodman¹⁰ Adam to
the pupil¹¹ age of this present twelve o'clock at midnight.

[Enter FRANCIS]

What's o'clock, Francis?

FRANCIS Anon, anon, sir! [Exit at another door]

FALSTAFF Nay, all thy busyness will not bring me to tell
them. Two I am sure I have paid¹²—two rogues in bucklers

and two o' th' best of all drunks; the only drink you'll get (if you
stay in the tavern). This entire speech seems meant to

2. Referring (satirically) to Francis's employer, who
would be robbed of Francis's labor if the apprentice
were to run away. This employer is imagined as dress-
ing in the manner of an upwardly mobile Londoner
wearing a leather jacket ("jerkin") with crystal buttons
and keeping his hair close-cropped ("knot-pated"). He
also wears a signet ring with a carved agate, dark
("puke") stockings, and garters made from caddis rib-
bon (a cheaper alternative to silk). He has a simpering
style of speech and carries a vintner's pouch made of
Spanish leather.

3. The best of all drinks; the only drink you'll get (if you
stay in the tavern). This entire speech seems meant to
mystify Francis while obliquely warning him that he
will get dirty and be poor if he fulfills his apprenticeship.

4. North African region from which England acquired
sugar.

5. That is, I am in the mood for anything. Renaissance
medical theory held that four body fluids, or humors,
determined by their relative proportions the health,
temperament, and moods of an individual.

PRINCE HARRY That ever this fellow should have fewer words
 than a parrot, and yet the son of a woman! His industry is
 upstairs and downstairs, his eloquence the parcel of a reck-
 oning.⁶ I am not yet of Percy's mind, the Hotspur of the
 North—he that kills me⁷ some six or seven dozen of Scots at
 a breakfast, washes his hands, and says to his wife, 'Fie upon
 this quiet life! I want work.' 'O my sweet Harry,' says she, 'how
 many hast thou killed today?' 'Give my roan horse a drench,'⁸
 says he, and answers, 'Some fourteen,' an hour after; 'a trifle,
 a trifle.' I prithee call in Falstaff. I'll play Percy, and that
 damned brawn⁹ shall play Dame Mortimer his wife. 'Rivo!'¹⁰
 says the drunkard. Call in Ribs, call in Tallow.¹¹

Enter FALSTAFF [with sword and buckler, BARDOLPH,
 in his PETO, and GADSHILL, followed by FRANCIS, with wine]

POINS Welcome, Jack. Where hast thou been?
 FALSTAFF A plague of all cowards, I say, and a vengeance too,
 marry and amen!—Give me a cup of sack, boy.—Ere I lead
 this life long, I'll sew netherstocks,¹² and mend them and foot¹³ stockings / making a new
 them too. A plague of all cowards!—Give me a cup of sack,
 rogue. Is there no virtue extant?

He drinketh

PRINCE HARRY Didst thou never see Titan¹⁴ kiss a dish of
 butter—pitiful hearted Titan—that melted at the sweet tale
 of the sun's? If thou didst, then behold that compound.¹⁵

FALSTAFF [to FRANCIS] You rogue, here's lime¹⁶ in this sack too.
 There is nothing but rougery to be found in villainous man,
 yet a coward is worse than a cup of sack with lime in it.

[Exit FRANCIS]
 PRINCE HARRY Come hither, Francis.

A villainous coward! Go thy ways, old Jack, die when thou
 wilt. If manhood, good manhood, be not forgot upon the face
 of the earth, then am I a shotten herring.¹⁷ There lives not
 three good men unhanged in England, and one of them is fat
 and grows old, God help the while.¹⁸ A bad world, I say. I would
 I were a weaver²—I could sing psalms, or anything. A plague
 of all cowards, I say still.

PRINCE HARRY How now, woolsack, what mutter you?

FALSTAFF A king's son! If I do not beat thee out of thy kingdom
 with a dagger of lath,³ and drive all thy subjects afore thee like
 a flock of wild geese, I'll never wear hair on my face more. You,
 Prince of Wales!

PRINCE HARRY Why, you whoreson round man, what's the
 matter?

FALSTAFF Are not you a coward? Answer me to that. And Poins
 there?

POINS Zounds, ye fat paunch, an ye call me coward, by the
 Lord I'll stab thee.

6. An exclamation associated with boisterous drinking.
 7. Combination; that is, the melted butter (referring to Falstaff).

8. Often added to bad wine to make it dry and sparkling.

9. Neither Q nor F indicates when Francis leaves the stage. He plays no further part in the action after this, so an exit here avoids the problem of having a character onstage with no obvious function.

1. A herring that has spawned its roe and is thus very thin.

2. Weavers were reputed to sing the Psalms of the Bible at work. Many were Puritans, and some had emigrated from the zealously Protestant Low Countries.

3. A wooden dagger, which was the weapon associated with the Vice figure in medieval morality plays (see note to line 413).

FALSTAFF I call thee coward? I'll see thee damned ere I call thee coward, but I would give a thousand pound I could run as fast as thou canst. You are straight enough in the shoulders; you care not who sees your back. Call you that backing of your friends? A plague upon such backing! Give me them that will face me. Give me a cup of sack. I am a rogue if I drunk today.

PRINCE HARRY O villain, thy lips are scarce wiped since thou drunkest last.

FALSTAFF All is one for that.⁴ *He drinketh* [He doesn't matter]

A plague of all cowards, still say I.

PRINCE HARRY What's the matter?

FALSTAFF What's the matter? There be four of us here have ta'en a thousand pound this day morning.⁵ *this morning*

PRINCE HARRY Where is it, Jack, where is it?

FALSTAFF Where is it? Taken from us it is. A hundred upon poor four of us.

PRINCE HARRY What, a hundred, man?

FALSTAFF I am a rogue if I were not at half-sword⁶ with a dozen of them, two hours together. I have scaped by miracle. I am eight times thrust through the doublet,⁷ four through the hose,⁸ my buckler⁹ cut through and through, my sword hacked like a handsaw. *Ecce signum.*⁴ *[He shows his sword]*

I never dealt better since I was a man. All would not do.⁵ A plague of all cowards! [Pointing to GADSHILL, PETO, and BAR-DOLPH] Let them speak. If they speak more or less than truth, they are villains and the sons of darkness.

PRINCE HARRY⁶ Speak, sirs, how was it?

GADSHILL We four set upon some dozen—

FALSTAFF [to the PRINCE] Sixteen at least, my lord.

GADSHILL And bound them.

PETO No, no, they were not bound.

FALSTAFF You rogue, they were bound every man of them, or am a Jew else, an Hebrew Jew.

GADSHILL As we were sharing, some six or seven fresh men set upon us.

FALSTAFF And unbound the rest; and then come in the other.

PRINCE HARRY What, fought you with them all?

FALSTAFF All? I know not what you call all, but if I fought not with fifty of them, I am a bunch of radish. If there were not two- or three-and-fifty upon poor old Jack, then am I no two-legged creature.

PRINCE HARRY Pray God you have not murdered some of them.

FALSTAFF Nay, that's past praying for. I have peppered¹⁰ two of them. Two I am sure I have paid¹¹—two rogues in buckram suits. I tell thee what, Hal, if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face, call me horse. Thou knowest my old ward¹²— *posture of defense*

[He stands as to fight]

4. Behold the evidence (Latin).

5. All I did was not enough; the whole group was insufficient opposition.

6. This is a second place (see 2.2.48) where textual confusion surrounds the character of Gadshill. In Q, this line is assigned to Gadshill and the following line to Russell (whose name was changed to "Bardolph" as

a result of censorship; see Introduction). In F, this line is assigned to the Prince and the following line to Gadshill. The next two speeches here assigned to Gadshill

were also given to Russell in Q. The F assignment of these lines to Gadshill may indicate that at some point Shakespeare divided between two characters a role originally designed for one.

here I lay,^o and thus I bore my point.^o Four rogues in buckram¹ stood / sword point
 180 let drive at me.

PRINCE HARRY What, four? Thou saidst but two even now.

FALSTAFF Four, Hal, I told thee four.

POINS Ay, ay, he said four.

FALSTAFF These four came all afront,^o and mainly^o thrust at me. abreast / mightily
 185 I made me no more ado, but took all their seven points in my shield
 target,^o thus.

[He wards himself with his buckler]

PRINCE HARRY Seven? Why, there were but four even now.

FALSTAFF In buckram?²

POINS Ay, four in buckram suits.

FALSTAFF Seven, by these hilts,^o or I am a villain else. sword handle
 190 PRINCE HARRY [aside to POINS] Prithee, let him alone. We shall have more anon.

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear me, Hal?

PRINCE HARRY Ay, and mark^o thee too, Jack. pay attention to; count
 195 FALSTAFF Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These nine in buckram that I told thee of—

PRINCE HARRY [aside to POINS] So, two more already.

FALSTAFF Their points³ being broken—

POINS [aside to the PRINCE] Down fell their hose.

FALSTAFF Began to give me ground. But I followed me^o close, I followed came in foot and hand, and, with a thought,^o seven of the eleventh⁴ swift as thought I paid.

PRINCE HARRY [aside to POINS] O monstrous! Eleven buckram men grown out of two!

FALSTAFF But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten knaves in Kendal green⁵ came at my back and let drive at me; for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand.

PRINCE HARRY These lies are like their father that begets them—gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why, thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated⁶ fool, thou whoreson obscene greasy tallow-catch⁷—

FALSTAFF What, art thou mad? Art thou mad? Is not the truth the truth?

PRINCE HARRY Why, how couldst thou know these men in Kendal green when it was so dark thou couldst not see thy hand? Come, tell us your reason. What sayst thou to this?

POINS Come, your reason, Jack, your reason.

FALSTAFF What, upon compulsion? Zounds, an I were at the strappado,⁸ or all the racks⁹ in the world, I would not tell you on compulsion. Give you a reason on compulsion? If reasons were as plentiful as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon compulsion, I.

PRINCE HARRY I'll be no longer guilty of this sin. This sanguine¹⁰ red-faced coward, this bed-presser,^o this horse-back-breaker, this huge hill of a licentious man of flesh—

¹ An exclamation associated with roguish drinking.

² Combines two that is, the melted butter and sugar.

³ An exclamation associated with roguish drinking.

⁴ A sword point, but Poins takes it as meaning "fastenings for hose."

⁵ A coarse green cloth made in Kendal, Cumbria. It was associated with poor country people, especially forest dwellers, as well as outlaws.

⁶ Greasy lump of fat (gathered by butchers for candle

⁷ Making).

⁸ A torture device in which victims were lifted off the ground by ropes attached to their hands, which were tied behind their backs, and then let fall.

⁹ A torture device in which victims' limbs were pulled apart.

FALSTAFF 'Sblood, you starveling, you elf-skin, you dried neat's^o tongue, you bull's pizzle, you stock-fish³—O, for breath to utter what is like thee!— you tailor's yard,⁴ you sheath, you bow-case, you vile standing tuck⁵—

PRINCE HARRY Well, breathe awhile, and then to't again, and when thou hast tired thyself in base comparisons, hear me speak but this.

POINS Mark, Jack.

PRINCE HARRY We two saw you four set on four, and bound them, and were masters of their wealth.—Mark now how a plain tale shall put you down.—Then did we two set on you four, and, with a word, outfaced you from your prize, and have it; yea, and can show it you here in the house. And Falstaff, you carried your guts away as nimbly, with as quick dexterity, and roared for mercy, and still run and roared, as ever I heard a bull-calf. What a slave art thou, to hack thy sword as thou hast done, and then say it was in fight! What trick, what device, what starting-hole^o canst thou now find out to hide thee from this open and apparent shame?

POINS Come, let's hear, Jack; what trick hast thou now?

FALSTAFF By the Lord, I knew ye as well as he that made ye. Why, hear you, my masters. Was it for me to kill the heir-apparent? Should I turn upon the true prince? Why, thou knowest I am as valiant as Hercules;⁶ but beware instinct. The lion will not touch the true prince⁷—instinct is a great matter. I was now a coward on instinct. I shall think the better of myself and thee during my life—I for a valiant lion, and thou for a true prince. But by the Lord, lads, I am glad you have the money.—[Calling] Hostess, clap to the doors.—Watch tonight, pray tomorrow.⁸ Gallants, lads, boys, hearts of gold, all the titles of good fellowship come to you! What, shall we be merry, shall we have a play extempore?

PRINCE HARRY Content, and the argument^o shall be thy running away.

260 FALSTAFF Ah, no more of that, Hal, an thou lovest me. Enter HOSTESS

HOSTESS O Jesu, my lord the Prince!

PRINCE HARRY How now, my lady the Hostess, what sayst thou to me?

HOSTESS Marry, my lord, there is a nobleman of the court at door would speak with you. He says he comes from your father.

PRINCE HARRY Give him as much as will make him a royal man,⁹ and send him back again to my mother.

FALSTAFF What manner of man is he?

HOSTESS An old man.

3. *bull's pizzle*: a bull's penis that when dried and stretched was used as a whip. *stock-fish*: dried cod.

4. Tailors were popularly imagined to lack virility. Falstaff puns on "yard" as referring both to a tailor's measuring stick and to his penis.

5. *sheath*: empty case (punning on "sheath" as meaning "foreskin"). *bow-case*: a long, thin case for unstrung bows. *standing tuck*: a stiff rapier (with a pun on "standing" as meaning "sexually erect").

6. In classical mythology, a hero who performed prodigious acts of strength and courage.

7. A popular belief derived from classical texts.

8. Falstaff alludes here to Matthew 26:41: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." He puns on "watch" as meaning "keep vigil" and "carouse" and on "pray" as meaning "prey."

9. Punning on "nobles" and "royals" as names of coins, the latter being more valuable.

270 FALSTAFF What doth gravity out of his bed at midnight? Shall I give him his answer?¹

PRINCE HARRY Prithee do, Jack.

FALSTAFF Faith, and I'll send him packing. *Exit*

PRINCE HARRY Now, sirs; [to GADSHILL] by'r Lady, you fought fair—so did you, Peto, so did you, Bardolph. You are lions! too—you ran away upon instinct, you will not touch the true prince; no, fie!

BARDOLPH Faith, I ran when I saw others run.

PRINCE HARRY Faith, tell me now in earnest, how came Falstaff's sword so hacked?

PETO Why, he hacked it with his dagger, and said he would swear truth out of England² but he would make you believe it was done in fight, and persuaded us to do the like.

BARDOLPH Yea, and to tickle our noses with speargrass,³ to make them bleed; and then to beslobber our garments with it, and swear it was the blood of true men. I did that? I did not this seven year before—I blushed to hear his monstrous devices.

PRINCE HARRY O villain, thou stolest a cup of sack eighteen years ago, and wert taken with the manner,⁴ and ever since thou hast blushed extempore.⁵ Thou hadst fire⁶ and sword on thy side, and yet thou rannest away. What instinct hadst thou for it?

BARDOLPH [indicating his face] My lord, do you see these meteors? Do you behold these exhalations?⁷

PRINCE HARRY I do.

BARDOLPH What think you they portend?

PRINCE HARRY Hot livers,⁸ and cold⁹ purses.

BARDOLPH Choler,⁶ my lord, if rightly taken.⁹ *[Exit]*⁷

PRINCE HARRY No, if rightly taken, halter.⁸

Enter FALSTAFF

Here comes lean Jack; here comes bare-bone. How now, my sweet creature of bombast?⁹ How long is't ago, Jack, since thou sawest thine own knee?

FALSTAFF My own knee? When I was about thy years, Hal, I was not an eagle's talon in the waist; I could have crept into any alderman's thumb-ring. A plague of sighing and grief—it blows a man up like a bladder. There's villainous news abroad. Here was Sir John Bracy from your father; you must to the court in the morning. That same mad fellow of the North, Percy, and he of Wales that gave Amamon¹⁰ the bastinado,¹¹ and made Lucifer cuckold,¹² and swore the devil his true liegeman¹³ upon the cross of a Welsh hook²—what a plague call you him?

1. Swear so excessively that Truth, imagined as an allegorical figure, would run out of England to escape him.
2. A plant with sharply pointed leaves.
3. A reference to Bardolph's red face, the focus of the jests that follow.
4. "Meteors" and "exhalations" refer to the red blotches on Bardolph's face, here compared to disturbances in the heavens.
5. Short tempers; livers inflamed by drink.
6. The humor associated with an angry disposition.
7. Neither Q nor F marks an exit for Bardolph here, but both indicate that he reenters at line 439. The nec-

essary exit might well follow this discussion of his inflamed face.

8. No, if rightly arrested, a noose. The Prince forces a legal reading on the previous line, playing on "choler" as "collar," or "noose," and taking "taken" to mean "arrested."

9. Cotton padding; pompous speech.

10. Slept with the devil's own wife; gave the devil his horns (the proverbial sign of a cuckold).
11. A heavy weapon with a crooked end, lacking the cross shape on which oaths were usually made.

POINS Owain Glyndŵr.
 FALSTAFF Owain, Owain, the same; and his son-in-law Mortimer, and old Northumberland, and that sprightly Scot of Scots Douglas, that runs a-horseback up a hill perpendicular—
 PRINCE HARRY He that rides at high speed and with his pistol kills a sparrow flying.
 FALSTAFF You have hit it.
 PRINCE HARRY So did he never the sparrow.
 FALSTAFF Well, that rascal hath good mettle in him; he will not run.
 PRINCE HARRY Why, what a rascal art thou, then, to praise him so for running!
 FALSTAFF A-horseback, ye cuckoo, but afoot he will not budge a foot.
 PRINCE HARRY Yes, Jack, upon instinct.
 FALSTAFF I grant ye, upon instinct. Well, he is there too, and one Mordake, and a thousand blue-caps^o more. Worcester is stolen away tonight. Thy father's beard is turned white with the news. You may buy land now as cheap as stinking mackerel.
 PRINCE HARRY Why then, it is like, if there come a hot June and this civil buffeting hold,^o we shall buy maidenheads as they buy hobnails: by the hundreds.³
 FALSTAFF By the mass, lad, thou sayst true; it is like we shall have good trading that way. But tell me, Hal, art not thou horrible afeard? Thou being heir-apparent, could the world pick thee out three such enemies again as that fiend Douglas, that spirit Percy, and that devil Glyndŵr? Art thou not horribly afraid? Doth not thy blood thrill^o at it?
 PRINCE HARRY Not a whit, i'faith. I lack some of thy instinct.
 FALSTAFF Well, thou wilt be horribly chid tomorrow when thou comest to thy father. If thou love me, practise an answer.
 PRINCE HARRY Do thou stand for^o my father, and examine me upon the particulars of my life.
 FALSTAFF Shall I? Content. This chair shall be my state,^o this dagger my sceptre, and this cushion my crown.
 PRINCE HARRY [He sits]
 PRINCE HARRY Thy state is taken for a joint-stool,⁴ thy golden sceptre for a leaden dagger, and thy precious rich crown for a pitiful bald crown.
 FALSTAFF Well, an^o the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou be moved. Give me a cup of sack to make my eyes look red, that it may be thought I have wept; for I must speak in passion, and I will do it in King Cambyses' vein.⁵
 PRINCE HARRY [bowing] Well, here is my leg.⁶
 FALSTAFF And here is my speech. [To PETO, POINS, and GADS-HILL] Stand aside, nobility.
 HOSTESS O Jesu, this is excellent sport, i'faith.
 FALSTAFF Weep not, sweet Queen,⁶ for trickling tears are vain.

3. Alluding to rape as a practice of war or to the notion that women would be likely to relinquish their virginity cheaply during wartime.

4. A stool made of wooden pieces fitted or joined together.

5. In the exaggerated rhetorical style associated with

such early Elizabethan plays as *Cambyses*, a tragedy about a despotic Persian king.

6. Possibly addressed to the Hostess, with a pun on "quean" as slang for "whore."

HOSTESS O the Father, how he holds his countenance!¹
 FALSTAFF For God's sake, lords, convey² my tristful³ Queen, *keeps a straight face*
 360 For tears do stop⁴ the floodgates of her eyes, *lead away / sad*
 HOSTESS O Jesu, he doth it as like one of these harlotry⁵ players
 as ever I see!
 FALSTAFF Peace, good pint-pot; peace, good tickle-brain.⁶—
 Harry, I do not only marvel where thou spendest thy time, but
 365 also how thou art accompanied. For though the camomile,⁷ *an herb*
 the more it is trodden on, the faster it grows, yet youth, the
 more it is wasted, the sooner it wears.⁸ That thou art my son
 I have partly thy mother's word, partly my own opinion, but
 chiefly a villainous trick⁹ of thine eye, and a foolish hanging
 370 trait of thy nether¹⁰ lip, that doth warrant¹¹ me. If then thou be son¹² *lower / assure*
 to me, here lies the point. Why, being son to me, art thou so
 pointed at?¹³ Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a micher,¹⁴ *criticized / truant*
 and eat blackberries?—A question not to be asked. Shall the
 375 son of England prove a thief, and take purses?—A question to
 be asked. There is a thing, Harry, which thou hast often heard
 of, and it is known to many in our land by the name of pitch.¹⁵ *sticky, black tar*
 This pitch, as ancient writers do report, doth defile.¹⁶ So doth
 the company thou keepest. For Harry, now I do not speak to
 thee in drink, but in tears; not in pleasure, but in passion; not
 380 in words only, but in woes also. And yet there is a virtuous
 man whom I have often noted in thy company, but I know not
 his name.

PRINCE HARRY What manner of man, an it like your majesty?

FALSTAFF A goodly, portly man, i'faith, and a corpulent; of a
 385 cheerful look, a pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage;¹⁷ and, *bearing*
 as I think, his age some fifty, or, by'r Lady, inclining to three-
 score. And now I remember me, his name is Falstaff. If that
 man should be lewdly given,¹⁸ he deceiveth me; for, Harry, I
 see virtue in his looks. If, then, the tree may be known by the
 390 fruit, as the fruit by the tree,¹⁹ then peremptorily I speak it—
 there is virtue in that Falstaff. Him keep with; the rest ban-
 ish. And tell me now, thou naughty varlet, tell me, where hast
 thou been this month?

PRINCE HARRY Dost thou speak like a king? Do thou stand for
 395 me, and I'll play my father.

FALSTAFF [standing] Depose me. If thou dost it half so gravely,
 so majestically both in word and matter, hang me up by the
 heels for a rabbit sucker,²⁰ or a poult's hare.²¹ *an unweaned rabbit*

PRINCE HARRY [sitting] Well, here I am set.²²

FALSTAFF And here I stand. [To the others] Judge, my masters.

PRINCE HARRY Now, Harry, whence come you?²³

FALSTAFF My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

PRINCE HARRY The complaints I hear of thee are grievous.

7. Slang term for a strong alcoholic drink, and hence
for the drinker.

8. Falstaff's entire speech is a parody of the previously
fashionable ornate rhetoric exemplified by John Lyly's
Euphues (1578).

9. See Ecclesiasticus 13:1 (also cited in Lyly's
Euphues).

10. An allusion to Matthew 12:33 (which also appears in Lyly's *Euphues*).

11. A hare sold in a poultry shop.

FALSTAFF 'Sblood, my lord, they are false. [To the others] Nay,
I'll tickle ye for^o a young prince, i'faith.

PRINCE HARRY Swearest thou, ungracious boy? Henceforth ne'er
look on me. Thou art violently carried away from grace. There
is a devil haunts thee in the likeness of an old fat man; a tun^o large barrel
of man is thy companion. Why dost thou converse^o with that associate
trunk of humours,³ that bolting-hutch^o of beastliness, that bin for coarse meal
swollen parcel of dropsies,⁴ that huge bombard^o of sack, that leather wine vessel
stuffed cloak-bag^o of guts, that roasted Manningtree⁵ ox with suitcase
the pudding^o in his belly, that reverend Vice,⁶ that grey Iniquity,⁷ stuffing
that father Ruffian, that Vanity in Years? Wherein is he good,⁸ virtuous; proficient
but to taste sack and drink it? Wherein neat and cleanly,⁹ but deft
to carve a capon and eat it? Wherein cunning, but in craft? Wherein crafty, but in villainy? Wherein villainous, but in all
things? Wherein worthy, but in nothing?

FALSTAFF I would your grace would take me with you.^o Whom explain what you mean
means your grace?

PRINCE HARRY That villainous, abominable misleader of youth, [HS.]
Falstaff; that old white-bearded Satan.

FALSTAFF My lord, the man I know.

PRINCE HARRY I know thou dost.

FALSTAFF But to say I know more harm in him than in myself
were to say more than I know. That he is old, the more the
pity, his white hairs do witness it. But that he is, saving your
reverence,⁷ a whoremaster, that I utterly deny. If sack and
sugar be a fault, God help the wicked. If to be old and merry
be a sin, then many an old host^o that I know is damned. If to
be fat be to be hated, then Pharaoh's lean kine⁸ are to be
loved. No, my good lord, banish Peto, banish Bardolph, ban-
ish Poins, but for sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true
Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and therefore more valiant
being, as he is, old Jack Falstaff,
Banish not him thy Harry's company,
Banish not him thy Harry's company.
Banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

PRINCE HARRY I do; I will.

[Knocking within. Exit HOSTESS.]⁹
Enter BARDOLPH, running

BARDOLPH O my lord, my lord, the sheriff with a most mon-
strous watch^o is at the door.

FALSTAFF Out, ye rogue! Play out the play! I have much to say
in the behalf of that Falstaff.

Enter the HOSTESS

Of burning cressets;³ and at my birth
The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes,
Like Prophets seen.
PETO Hostess

3. A chest full of body fluids, whose excess, according to Renaissance medical theory, was extremely unhealthy.

4. Diseases characterized by retention of water.

5. Market town in Essex, noted for the Manningtree Fair, where a roasted ox may have been part of the festivities.

6. An irreverent, comic, and (usually) youthful character representing evil and sin in the medieval morality

plays. Sometimes named "Iniquity."

7. If you will excuse the expression.

8. In a biblical story in Genesis 41:18–21, Pharaoh dreams of seven lean cows ("kine") that portend seven years of famine.

9. Neither F nor Q marks an exit for the Hostess, but both indicate her reentry at line 443. It makes sense for her to exit here to see about the commotion at her door.

HOSTESS O Jesu! My lord, my lord!

445 PRINCE HARRY *Heigh, heigh, the devil rides upon a fiddlestick!*¹

What's the matter?

HOSTESS The sheriff and all the watch are at the door. They are come to search the house. Shall I let them in?

FALSTAFF Dost thou hear, Hal? Never call a true piece of gold a counterfeit—thou art essentially made, without seeming so.²

PRINCE HARRY And thou a natural coward without instinct.

FALSTAFF I deny your major.³ If you will deny³ the sheriff, so.

If not, let him enter. If I become^o not a cart^o as well as another man, a plague on my bringing up. I hope I shall as soon be strangled with a halter as another.

PRINCE HARRY Go, hide thee behind the arras.^o The rest walk up above. Now, my masters, for a true face and good conscience.

[*Exeunt POINS, BARDOLPH, and GADSHILL*]

FALSTAFF Both which I have had, but their date is out;^o and therefore I'll hide me.

[*He withdraws behind the arras*]

450 PRINCE HARRY [to HOSTESS] Call in the sheriff. [*Exit HOSTESS*]

Enter SHERIFF and [a] CARRIER

Now, master sheriff, what is your will with me?

SHERIFF First, pardon me, my lord. A hue and cry⁴

380 Hath followed certain men unto this house.

PRINCE HARRY What men?

460 SHERIFF One of them is well known, my gracious lord,

A gross, fat man.

CARRIER As fat as butter.

PRINCE HARRY The man, I do assure you, is not here,

470 For I myself at this time have employed him.

And, sheriff, I will engage^o my word to thee

That I will by tomorrow dinner-time

Send him to answer thee, or any man,

390 For anything he shall be charged withal,

And so let me entreat you leave the house.

SHERIFF I will, my lord. There are two gentlemen

475 Have in this robbery lost three hundred marks.

PRINCE HARRY It may be so. If he have robbed these men,

395 He shall be answerable. And so, farewell.

SHERIFF Good night, my noble lord.

PRINCE HARRY I think it is good morrow, is it not?

480 SHERIFF Indeed, my lord, I think it be two o'clock.

[*Prince Harry [setting]*] Well, [*Exeunt [SHERIFF and CARRIER]*]

PRINCE HARRY This oily rascal is known as well as Paul's.⁵ [*St. Paul's Cathedral*]

Go call him forth.

PETO *Falstaff!*

[*He draws back the arras, revealing FALSTAFF asleep*]

Fast asleep

1. That is, what a row about nothing.

2. A famously difficult passage. Falstaff may be insisting he is true gold, not a counterfeit (and so should not be turned over to the watch) just as Hal is a true Prince

3. If you will refuse to let in.

4. A group of citizens who pursue a criminal.

Behind the arras, and snorting like a horse.

PRINCE HARRY Hark how hard he fetches breath. Search his pockets.

[PETO] searcheth his pocket and findeth certain papers.

[He closeth the arras and cometh forward]

What hast thou found?

PETO The Archdeacon Nothing but papers, my lord.

PRINCE HARRY Let's see what they be. Read them.

PETO [reads] Item: a capon.

Item: sauce.

2s. 2d.

4d.

Item: sack, two gallons.

5s. 8d.

Item: anchovies and sack after supper.

2s. 6d.

Item: bread.

ob. obolus (halfpenny)

PRINCE HARRY O monstrous! But one halfpennyworth of bread

to this intolerable deal⁵ of sack! What there is else, keep close;

we'll read it at more advantage.⁶ There let him sleep till day.

I'll to the court in the morning. We must all to the wars, and

thy place shall be honourable. I'll procure this fat rogue a

charge of foot,⁵ and I know his death will be a march of twelve

score.⁶ The money shall be paid back again, with advantage.⁶

Be with me betimes⁷ in the morning; and so good morrow,

Peto.

PETO Good morrow, good my lord.

Exeunt [severally]

3.1

Enter HOTSPUR, [the Earl of] WORCESTER, Lord MORTI-

MER, [and] Owain GLYNDŴR [with a map]

MORTIMER These promises are fair, the parties sure,

And our induction⁸ full of prosperous hope.¹

HOTSPUR Lord Mortimer and cousin Glyndŵr,

Will you sit down? And uncle Worcester?

[MORTIMER, GLYNDŴR, and WORCESTER sit]

A plague upon it, I have forgot the map!

GLYNDŴR No, here it is. Sit, cousin Percy, sit,

Good cousin Hotspur; [HOTSPUR sits]

For by that name

As oft as Lancaster² doth speak of you,

His cheek looks pale, and with a rising sigh

He wisheth you in heaven.

HOTSPUR And you in hell,

As oft as he hears Owain Glyndŵr spoke of.

GLYNDŴR I cannot blame him. At my nativity

The front⁹ of heaven was full of fiery shapes,

Of burning cressets;³ and at my birth

And on this north side whereof

And then he rung his bell, tell him to come,

5. Command of an infantry company.

6. I know it will kill him to march twelve times twenty yards or paces.

3.1 Location: Glyndŵr's castle, Wales. According to Holinshed's *Chronicles*, the events of this scene take

place in the house of the Archdeacon of Bangor; but he is not present in Shakespeare's scene, and Glyndŵr acts

as host throughout.

1. Full of the hope of prospering.

2. Referring to Henry's title as Duke and hence implying a denial of the legitimacy of his kingship.

3. Metal baskets of fire suspended from long poles; meteors.