

KING

Nothing but well to thee, Thomas of Clarence.  
How chance thou art not with the prince thy brother?  
He loves thee, and thou dost neglect him, Thomas;  
Thou hast a better place in his affection  
Than all thy brothers. Cherish it, my boy,  
And noble offices thou mayst effect  
Of mediation, after I am dead,  
Between his greatness and thy other brethren.  
For he is gracious, if he be observed.  
He hath a tear for pity and a hand  
Open as day for meting charity.  
Yet notwithstanding, being incensed, he's flint,  
As humorous as winter and as sudden  
As flaws congealèd in the spring of day.  
His temper, therefore, must be well observed.  
Chide him for faults, and do it reverently,  
When you perceive his blood inclined to mirth,  
But, being moody, give him time and scope,  
Till that his passions, like a whale on ground,  
Confound themselves with working. Learn this  
Thomas,  
And thou shalt prove a shelter to thy friends,  
A hoop of gold to bind thy brothers in,  
That the united vessel of their blood,  
Mingled with venom of suggestion –  
As, force perforce, the age will pour it in –  
Shall never leak, though it do work as strong  
As aconitum or rash gunpowder.

(IV iv : 19 - 48)

KING

And wherefore should these good news make me sick?  
Will Fortune never come with both hands full,  
But write her fair words still in foulest letters?  
She either gives a stomach and no food –  
Such are the poor, in health – or else a feast  
And takes away the stomach – such are the rich,  
That have abundance and enjoy it not.  
I should rejoice now at this happy news,  
And now my sight fails, and my brain is giddy.

(IV iv : 102 - 110)

CLARENCE

No, no, he cannot long hold out these pangs.  
The incessant care and labor of his mind  
Hath wrought the mure that should confine it in  
So thin that life looks through and will break out.

GLOUCESTER

The people fear me, for they do observe  
Unfathered heirs and loathly births of nature.  
The seasons change their manners, as the year  
Had found some months asleep and leaped them over.

CLARENCE

The river hath thrice flowed, no ebb between,  
And the old folk, time's dotting chronicles,  
Say it did so a little time before  
That our great-grandsire, Edward, sicked and died.

(IV iv : 117 - 128)

FALSTAFF I'll follow you, good Master Robert Shallow.  
[Exit Shallow.] Bardolph, look to our horses. [Exeunt  
Bardolph and Page.] If I were sawed into quantities, I  
should make four dozen of such bearded hermits' staves  
as Master Shallow. It is a wonderful thing to see the sem-  
blable coherence of his men's spirits and his. They, by  
observing him, do bear themselves like foolish justices;  
he, by conversing with them, is turned into a justice-like  
serving-man. Their spirits are so married in conjunction  
with the participation of society that they flock together  
in consent, like so many wild geese. If I had a suit to  
Master Shallow, I would humor his men with the impu-  
tation of being near their master. If to his men, I would  
curry with Master Shallow that no man could better  
command his servants. It is certain that either wise bear-  
ing or ignorant carriage is caught, as men take diseases,  
one of another. Therefore let men take heed of their com-  
pany. I will devise matter enough out of this Shallow to  
keep Prince Harry in continual laughter the wearing out  
of six fashions, which is four terms, or two actions, and  
'a shall laugh without intervallums. O, it is much that a lie  
with a slight oath and a jest with a sad brow will do with  
a fellow that never had the ache in his shoulders! O, you  
shall see him laugh till his face be like a wet cloak ill laid  
up!

(V i : 54 - 78)