

Canterbury (5)

(quietly, almost conspiratorially)

If the bill before Commons passes against us,
We lose the better half of our possession.
For all the temporal lands which men devout
By testament have given to the church
would they strip from us to give to the lords,
earls and knights of the kingdom,
And to the coffers of the king beside,
A thousand pounds by the year: thus runs the bill.

Aide (7)

(quiet)

This would drink deep.

Canterbury (5)

'Twould drink the cup and all.

Aide (7)

But what prevention, my lord?

Canterbury (5)

The king . . . he is full of grace and fair regard.

Aide (7)

And a true lover of the holy church,
though the courses of his youth promised it not.
The breath no sooner left his father's body
But that his wildness seem'd to die, too.

But as to mitigation of this bill
Urged by the Commons: Doth his majesty
Incline to it, or no?

Canterbury (5)

He seems . . . indifferent,
Or rather swaying more upon our part
Than cherishing the exhibitors against us;
For I have made an offer to his majesty
As touching France, to give a greater sum
Than ever at one time the clergy yet
Did to his predecessors.