

"YE CRYSTEMES SONG OF YE WAITS."

1565.

The furst Senatour.

The Maker allmyghtye, the grounde of alle grace,
Save this congregation that be here present,
And bryng them all to the celestyall place
That with pacyens wyll here the effect of our intent.

The second Senatour.

Oure intent and purpose is auneynt customes to declare
That haue ben vsed in this citie manye yeres ago,
And nowe for to breake them we wysshe ye schuld beware,
For ther be grevous ponysshment for them y^t wyll do soe.

The thurd Senatour.

At the tyme of Cristmas myrthe hath ben made
Throughout all nacyns of the Crystiane faith,
And styll so to keip it ye nede not be affrayde,
For then was our Savyour bourn as the Scripture saith.

The furst Senatour.

At that tyme saith Saynt Johne appeared our perfight lyght
And the Saveyour of all the world y^t faithfully trust in hym.
Saynt Luke in y^e second chapitour declaryng his strenght and myght,
Therefore at that tyme to be merye we wyssh ye schuld begyn.

The second Senatour.

The Aungelles with myrthe the schepperdes did obey,
When they song Gloria in excelsis in tynes mystycall,
The byrdes w^t solemnytye song on every spray,
And the beastes for joye made reuerence in there stall.

The thurd Senatour.

Therefore w^t a contrite hart let hus be merye all
Havyng a stedfast faith and a love most amyable,
Disdaynyng no man of power greate nor small.
For a crewell oppressour is nothyng commendable.

The furst Senatour.

Whatsoeuer oppressor wyll be cruelle and not merye make
Schal be sore fettered in a dongion full deip
Wherin is todes and miteis w^t many a gret snayk,
That place is so dark you schall not se your fete.

Second Senatour.

Therfore Crystmas myrth I wold ye schuld esteme,
And to feare God and schewe y^e deides of charyty boithe man and wyff
Orelles the people wyll assemble w^t weapons scherpe and keene,
Wherfore it wyll not preuaile to make any stryff.

Thurd Senatour.

Bycause that holye tyme all good people do prepare
Aswell kynges and quenes that is of most noble byrthe,
As also dukes, erles and lordes royally wyll faire,
And spend the tyme of Crystmas w^t joye and myrthe.

The furst Senatour.

Forsomuch as all degrees within this r } illegible
Do hyghly esteym the tyme of Cry }
To breke y^t honourable custom I wold none to . }
But spend y^e tyme in hearyng and folowynng Gods word.

Second Senatour.

That is the cheiff cause hither we were sent
To gyve the people warnyng to have all things perfightly,
For they that do not breakyth M^r Mayours comaundement
And accordyng to the order ponysshed must they be.

Thurd Senatour.

Therefore endeavour your selves to have all thinges well,
That no default be found neyther of riche nor pore
But at that tyme help your neighbures as S. James doth [tell ?]
Refreshyng the pouertye y^t cummyth to y^e dore.

Furst Senatour.

Breifly we have declared theeffect of our mynd
And I do not doubt but you wyll have it in remembraynce—
One neighbour to another I wyssh ye schuld be kynde,
For y^e tyme doith so spend nedes we must goo fro[m] hence ?]

The Second Senatour.

Here we cannot tary, the tyme passith } illegible.
This mortall worlde is but van[ity] }
All magistrates and rulers we wold ye sch[uld] . . . }
Walkyng in your }

The [thurd Senatour].

The eternal Lord haue . . . } illegible.
Unto other places . . . }
Power vpon you th . . . }
He yt all thynges . . . }

Amen"