

Prophecy of Merlin (1622-1623)

Transcript

British Library, Additional MS 28640, ff. 101r–101v

101r

[*Left margin:* Merlin in Latine hath nothing that is like hitherto] This following prophecie is said to^{be} Merlins who was famous about the yeere of Chr. 433 see *Fascicul[us] temporu[m]* betw. 423 & 433. It seemes that Mr. I. Malcomb. Scot[us] had relation to this prohecie in his verses before the kings expositio[n] of Reuel. 20. v.7-10 printed at Edenburgh. 1588 & since reprinted in England.

A Prince out of the North shall come, King borne, Crownde babe, his brest vpon a lyon rampant strange to see, & C I S shall cleped be [*Right margin:* Charles Iames Stuart. the K. of Fr. named him Ch. & Queene Eliz. James.] borne in a Country rude & stony, yet he Courageous wise & holie. At beste of strength his Fortunes beste he shall receiue, & then in reste couche as a Lyon in his denne, & reste in peace so long, till men [*Right margin:* live] shall wonder, & all Christendome thinke the time long, both all & some At last he calles a Parliament, & breakes it vp in discontent. And shortelie then shall rouzed be, byemie beyonde the sea; But when in wrath he drawes his sworde, woe, that the sleeping Lyon stird'e. [*Right margin:* woe him] The Valiant acts he then shall doe, [*Right margin:* For ere he sheates the same againe he puttes his foes to mickle paine] [*Left margin:* a] greate Alexanders fame out-goe. He passeth seas & fame doth winne, till many Princes ioyne with him, & chuse him for their Governor, & crowne him Western Emperor. And after a while he shall begirte, the City auncient oulde & greate, which on seaven hilles is scituate, till he her walles hath ruinate.

Then shall a foe &c./turne

101v

Then shall a foe from Easte appeere [*Left margin:* b] the brinke of one greate river neere, The Lyon rampant shall him meete, & if on this side they shall fight [*Right margin:* *mollus pronu[n]ciandu[s]*.] the day is loste, but he shall crosse the river greate, & being paste shall in the strength of his greate god, be to his foes a scourging rodde. [*Left margin:* c] [*Right margin:* causing him thence to take his flight of Easterne kings succour to seeke Then shall he be in an hower of East & west crownde Emperour.] Then shall the foe in fury burne, & from the Easte in haste returne, with aide of Kings & Princes greate, into the vale of Iehoshaphat. There shall he meete the Lyon strong, Who in a battaile fierce & long shall foile his foes. Then cruell death shall take away his aged breathe. [*Right margin:* vide Merlins p[ro]phecie.]

I haue seene another Copie agreeing with this, sauing that at /a/ it hath not those ij verses but ij other in steade of the[m] thus

For yere he sheathes the same againe [*Left margin:* a] he puttes his foes to mickle paine
a /b/ 'tis thus

[*Left margin:* b] Then shall a foe from seas appeere the brinke of our great riuer neere
which causeth alteratio[n] after
the day is lost but he shall crosse the seas & being past

this staffe is lame you see.

causing him thence to take his flight of Easterne kings succour to seeke Then shall he be in an hower of Easte & West crowned Emperor [*Right margin*: All these 4 are inserted at /c/ in the other copie.]

In the beginning of Merlins p[ro]phecie which I bought, there was written this p[ro]phecie, conteining as much as both these copies & no more.

The Scottes talke of one Thomas the Rymer or Ritchner, fro[m] whom this Iacobus Iacobi Iacobo Iacobum Iacobe Iacoboq[ue] Sexto, filius Dac{ } regnabit in eternum. [*Left margin*: Of Thomas the Rimer mention is made in Speeds chron. 635 a.]

Other manuscript witnesses

- British Library, Additional MS 64887, ff. 23r–24v
- British Library, Harley MS 1576, ff. 131v–133r
- British Library, Harley MS 252, ff. 120r–121v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1479, ff. 7r–7v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn b197, ff. 174–175
- Beinecke Library, Osborn fb69, f. 229
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson poetry 26, ff. 67r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 88, f. 252v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 88, f. 253r
- Cambridge University Library, MS Ee.5.56, ff. 1r–v
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS L.b.670, ff. 1r–v
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.275
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.b.303, p276

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/ProphecyMerlin1622.html>