

THE NOBLE ENGLISH WORTHIES

28 December 1659

'Tis not saint George we sing of here,
Nor George, the fatal Duke Villier,¹
Nor George a Green, nor Castriot,²
Nor Buchanan, the learned Scot;³
But 'tis of George the valiant Monck,
That made Van Tromp in blood dead drunk,⁴
And in the seas his navy sunk;
Oh! This is our brave George!

He made the Dutch-men vale their tops,
And humble be as their sack-slops;
The English fleet he did advance,
To th' terror of proud Spain and France;
And when amongst the Scots he came,
He did their furious spirits tame,
For which 'ere since all love his name;
Oh! This is our brave George!

Renown by sea and land he got;
Old Noll⁵ for him would do what not;
There's none 'ere boded him ill-will,
That valour had, or martial skill.
This is the noble general,
Who fights to rescue us from thrall,
And that we may be free-men all;
Oh! This is our brave George!

Such gallant worthies are most rare;
Yet many more at Portsmouth are;
Noble Sir Arthur Haselrig
Resolves to lead a Scottish gig,
With Morley, Walton, Wallop, and
Renowned Whetham, whose command⁶
For all our liberties do stand,
As well as our brave George.

Sir Ashley-Cooper, Scott, and more,⁷
Such honest hearts there are good store,
The famous Lawson and the fleet,⁸

¹ George Villiers (1592–1628), Duke of Buckingham. Assassinated in Portsmouth by a disgruntled army officer.

² George Kastrioti Skanderbeg (1405–1468), leader of Albanian Christian resistance to Ottoman expansion

³ George Buchanan (1506–1582), humanist scholar. Michel de Montaigne, Mary, Queen of Scots, and James VI numbered among his pupils.

⁴ Monck defeated the Dutch admiral Maarten Tromp (1598–1653) at the Battle of Scheveningen, where the latter lost his life to a sniper.

⁵ **Old Noll** — an epithet Royalists applied to Oliver Cromwell

⁶ In December 1659 Sir Arthur Haselrig, Colonel Morley, Colonel Walton, and Robert Wallop secured Portsmouth for Parliament, with the aid of the Governor, Colonel Whetham.

⁷ Sir Anthony Ashley-Cooper and Thomas Scott signed a declaration of army officers supporting Parliament

⁸ Admiral John Lawson brought the fleet up the Thames from Gravesend to support Parliament against the army

And London lads in every street,
Who vow to make subverters stare
At Tyburn in the open air,
For doing what no king did dare:
And thus vows our brave George.

The honest soldiers (though some be
Sadly mis-led) resolve to see
The Parliament restor'd again,
And run away to Monck amain;
Who pays them well, as well they may
Expect, for Lambert has no pay;
And thus the news is every day
In honour of brave George.

Hacker¹ and other men resolv'd,
Deny the Members are dissolv'd,
Though their apostatising brothers
Pretend to be more wise than others;
But when their folly re-appears,
And their ill-fortune like those years,
When Noll steep'd all the land in tears,
Then, hey! for our brave George!

The writs for a new Parliament
Are to return the way they went;
For no elections can be made
In freedom, whilst the cobbling trade²
Can vamp, set up, or them translate;
And this necessity of state
(As wise men say) breeds all the bate;
And thus says our brave George.

The noble city will be wise,
And their sweet liberties dear prize;
Religion, laws, and freedom are
The stakes for which all parties dare;
But yet our better hopes appear,
Against the new approaching year,
We shall be quitted all from fear
By the help of our brave George.

Let them that please, sit still at ease,
Whilst Heaven in mercy sends us peace;
But may our noble worthies be
Successful in their policy,
That order may return again
In church and state, and right may reign,
And all subverters have their pain!

¹ Colonel Francis Hacker commanded the guards at Charles I's execution, and worked to support the army in 1659

² Colonel John Hewson, a Regicide, actively supported the army during 1659.

And God bless our brave George!

“The Noble English Worthies,” in *English Poetry, Ballads, and Popular Literature of the Middle Ages* (London: The Percy Society, 1841), III:163–167.