

**Property of a Late Warden, 1613**  
*with*  
**Some More on the Ryves Family**

The last issue of New College Notes included a Note on three members of the early-modern college dynasty of Ryves – George the warden, Thomas the lawyer, and Bruno the journalist and ecclesiastic. Since then, I have chanced across two interesting documents which I present here, and we also have a new book for the library, being a copy of Bruno Ryves’s *Mercurius Rusticus* (London, 1685), which we have just purchased. The first document is the inventory of the possessions of George Ryves, taken when he died in the lodgings in 1613; and the second is a letter from Thomas, enclosing some money, to a famous New College scholar in prison for debt, the chronologist Thomas Lydiat. Finally, I present Bruno Ryves’s classic account of the desecration of Winchester Cathedral in the civil war, being one of the newsletters of *Mercurius Rusticus*.

**I.**

Elsewhere in this issue, in the Note on John Reinolds, I have presented a transcript of what he possessed at the time of his death as a fellow in 1614, when he was probably thirty. The previous year, the Warden himself had died in college, in his mid-forties. Warden Ryves owned considerably more than the unwealthy, poetical don Reinolds, and readers are invited to compare the two lists to get a sense of how lives differed around the Old Quad. Ryves’ inventory is held in the university archives.<sup>1</sup> The valuations, estimates made by the officials who surveyed Ryves’ goods and chattels, are expressed in the money of the time, being pounds (‘l’ or ‘li’, for *libri*), shillings (‘s’, for *solidi*), and pence (‘d’, for *denarii*), where £1 = 20s = 240d, and where numbers are expressed in roman numerals, so ‘x’, ‘v’, ‘i’ for 10, 5, 1, and a sole or final ‘i’ is typically written as ‘j’, so ‘ij<sup>l</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>’ means £3 6s 4d. There are some deletions or emendations to the reckonings, but I have given what I think is the intended sum.

The Inventory of the goods and chattels of y<sup>c</sup> Ru<sup>rd</sup> George Rives Doctor in Divinity and Warden of Newe Colledge taken prayesd and valued after his decease this vij<sup>th</sup> of June 1613

Imprimis in readye monye		
Item in bills and bands		
Item the iij vppermost shelves, in the Easte side of his studye all his bookes there	iij <sup>l</sup> x <sup>s</sup>	[£4 10s]
Item the iij lowermoste shelves in the same side beinge bookes in folio	xxxxiij <sup>l</sup> x <sup>s</sup>	[£44 10s]
Item x little shelves of smale bookes at the southe end of his studye	ij <sup>l</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>	[£3 6s 4d]
Item ij shelves of bookes moste of them in folio in the west side of his studye	xx <sup>l</sup>	[£4]
Item iij shelves more one the same side some of the bookes in folio some in quarto and other smale bookes	x <sup>l</sup> iij <sup>l</sup> x <sup>s</sup>	[£14 10s]

In the Gallerye on the weste side of his lodgeinge

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<sup>1</sup> Oxford University Archives, Hyp/B/20, fols. 23r-24r, dated 7 June 1613. His will, given 14 April 1613, discussed in the last Note, is readily available through The National Archives: PRO, PROB 11/122, pp. 1-5.

Item x picketures hangeinge on the Easte side there	iiij <sup>l</sup> viij <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>	[£3 7s 8d]
Item iij picketures hangeinge on the southe end of the same gallerye	x <sup>s</sup>	[10s]
Item iiiij picketures hangeinge on the weste end there	xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	[13s 4d]
Item x picketures hanging on the northe end of the same gallerye some smale & some greater	vj <sup>l</sup> vi <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>	[£6 6s 8d]
Item viij smale maps hangeinge on the Easte side and iiiij tabels in frames on ye same side	xx <sup>s</sup>	[20s]
Item j Geonalighye hangeinge in a frame on the southe end there	v <sup>s</sup>	[5s]
Item a table of the World	v <sup>s</sup>	[5s]
Item ij smaler maps & iiiij greate maps hangeinge on the sowthe end and west side of the gallerye	xxxvj <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>	[36s 8d]
Item iij picketures more	xx <sup>s</sup>	[20s]
Item certayne genealogyes hangeinge in the lobby w <sup>th</sup> out frames	ij <sup>s</sup>	[2s]
Item x maps hangeinge in the hale	vj <sup>s</sup> viiiij <sup>d</sup>	[6s 8d]
Item iiiij smale picketures hangeinge there	ij <sup>s</sup>	[2s]
Item a gilded lookeinge glasse and a standishe in the studye	x <sup>s</sup>	[10s]
Item a bracelet of Corall and silver [/]	ij <sup>s</sup>	[2s]
Item an Iron cheste	xl <sup>s</sup>	[40s]
Item a tronke w <sup>th</sup> certayne linnan in it	xxx <sup>s</sup>	[30s]
Item a little box		
Item iij wrought Cussians in ye gallerye	xl <sup>s</sup>	[40s]
Item a crosbowe w <sup>th</sup> arrowes and vj holdberes w <sup>th</sup> other smale trifels in a in a cobbard in the gallerye	xxx <sup>s</sup>	[30s]
Item a wrought cheyre in the gallerye and ij lowe stooles imbroydered w <sup>th</sup> silver	xl <sup>s</sup>	[40s]
In the little chamber by the gallerye		
Item a cheste w <sup>th</sup> a scarlet gowne and a hode	vj <sup>l</sup>	[£6]
Item a cheste w <sup>th</sup> iij sugerloves in it in a little roome out of the hale towards ye gallerye	xxx <sup>s</sup>	[30s]
In the Parlor		
Item ix Pictures	xliv <sup>s</sup>	[45s]
Item ij lowe stooles	iiij <sup>s</sup>	[3s]

In the studye next to y<sup>e</sup> parlor

Item a cheste w <sup>th</sup> plate in it	100 <sup>li</sup>	[£100]
Item ij Cellers to put glases in, a deske w <sup>th</sup> gloves in it and other things China dishes bottels of rose water w <sup>th</sup> all other things in that study	vi <sup>li</sup> xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>	[£6 13s 4d]
In his bedchamber		
Item a Cubbard wth drawinge boxes w <sup>th</sup> certaine linnan in it	v <sup>l</sup>	[£5]
Item an habet and hode of scarlet and ij surpluses	v <sup>l</sup>	[£5]
Item ij lowe stooles	iiij <sup>s</sup>	[3s]
Item a warming pann [/]	ij <sup>s</sup> vi <sup>d</sup>	[2s 6d]
Item iij ruggs & ij blanckets	xlijs vjd	[42s 6d]
Item a close stoole	ij <sup>s</sup>	[2s]
Item a clocke w <sup>th</sup> a larume	v <sup>l</sup>	[£5]
Item v gownes ij Cassocks wth other wearinge apparrell	xx <sup>l</sup>	[£20]
Item ij Armors & iij bowes & Arrowes	iiij <sup>li</sup>	[£4]
Item iij tronkes	xx <sup>s</sup>	[20s]

*Summa* 279<sup>l</sup> 3<sup>s</sup>  
276<sup>l</sup> 16<sup>s</sup>

This is an impressive list: almost £80 in books; a gallery for pictures, maps, and genealogical charts; weapons; fine clothes and cushions; chinaware and glasses; £100 in plate; even an alarm clock ('a clocke w<sup>th</sup> a larume') for the bedroom. The total value of goods here is high, the revised *summa* for the list being £276 16s, and Ryves's will confirms that he was wealthy – he held all sorts of interests in land, including some good fishing on the Cherwell, and he specified cash gifts to all the fellows, scholars, and chaplains in college, as well as considerable pay-outs to family members, including £200 to his brother Thomas, the lawyer. His will also throws some light on what happened – or at least was supposed to happen – to several of the possessions listed above. His folios were to be given to the college library within the month, although his 'great Bible in folio' was to go to his nephew John Crooke, also a fellow of the college. His silver basin and ewer went to the subwarden of Winchester College, various gilt bowls to his brothers. As for certain of his weapons and pictures:

Item I giue vnto the saied Colledge my twoe halberdes which ar trymmed with velvett to be placed with the rest of their warlike provision and my greate Curtayne of Arras which hangeth in the parloure of the wardens lodging there to contynewe and the pictures of Christe carrying his Crosse and likewise the pictures of owre Founder and of the Fowdner of Magdalen Colledge, to remayne still in the Wardens gallerye.

Compare all of this with the dead poet Reinolds: he made do with a little set of books not quite worth £3, a pair of bowling balls, one ring, and a wardrobe of clothes worth only 16 shillings. His total goods: £11 4s 8d. His warden's total goods: £276 16s. Such is the lot of the young academic on the south side of the quad! Such the riches of his warden to the west!

## II.

In the last issue we also encountered Thomas Ryves, the lawyer and the political player of the family, as a writer too: amongst other works, he published studies on ships and maritime affairs from the Ark of Noah to the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. The first two installments of his study of ancient shipping came out in 1629 and 1633, and in that latter year he also became briefly involved in the sorry tale of Thomas Lydiat (1572-1646), one of the most technically brilliant of the New College scholars of the period.<sup>2</sup> Lydiat had resigned his fellowship in 1603, as he was unwilling to pursue a higher degree in divinity (he said his memory and eloquence were not up to it), but the college kept an eye on this quondam fellow as one of the few scholars the college had generated with a genuinely international reputation.<sup>3</sup> Lydiat was a chronologist and an astronomer, and he fell into controversy with some of the scholarly Atlases of the age, including Joseph Justus Scaliger and Johannes Kepler. Lydiat was the inventor of what was known as the ‘Lydiatean’ or ‘Octodesexcentenary Period’, a span of 592 solar years, and a chronological unit that he believed was a more versatile and better-calculated measure than Scaliger’s famous ‘Julian Period’ of 7,980 years. Scaliger was exceptionally rude about Lydiat as a result, but the English and the Oxonians were proud of their man, and Robert Plot devoted several pages of his *Natural History of Oxford-Shire* (1677) to Lydiat and his chronological accomplishments; Plot had even acquired some of Lydiat’s manuscript calculations. Plot loyally considered Lydiat to have got the better of Scaliger:

... whil’st in the midst of his glorious attempts, behold him [Scaliger] shaken by meek, and modest *Lydiat*, the happy *Inventor* of a more accurat *period*, whereby he so disturbed and confounded all his *supputations*, that (if we may believe the most Learned of the Age) he laid his *angry Rival* flat upon his back.<sup>4</sup>

Indeed, readers may be astounded to learn that Lydiat is best known to historians of science today as a man who proposed elliptical orbits for the planets before Kepler himself did so.<sup>5</sup> He was appointed chronographer and cosmographer to Henry, Prince of Wales, and later to a fellowship of Trinity College, Dublin; but it was insolvency rather than Scaliger that really got him, and he was ‘imprisoned for debt continuously between 1627 and 1633 in Oxford and Southwark’ (*ODNB*). As Samuel Johnson later rhymed, ‘If dreams yet flatter, once again attend; / Hear Lydiat’s life and Galileo’s end’.

In 1633 Thomas Ryves wrote to Lydiat, enclosing money – five pounds, not a trivial sum – and telling him not to spend it on books. Lydiat preserved the letter amongst his papers, which are today gathered in the Bodleian as MS Bodley 313:<sup>6</sup>

m<sup>r</sup> Lydiatt I herewith send yow fue pounds: with charge that yow spend it not vpon bookes, butt upon y<sup>e</sup> cherishing of y<sup>r</sup> poore bodie: and withall I send yow newes, that the King and my L: of Canterburie, haue taken knowlege of [your] worth and poore

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<sup>2</sup> For Lydiat, see now especially Christine Haugen, ‘Thomas Lydiat’s Scholarship in Prison: Discovery and Disaster in the Seventeenth Century’, *Bodleian Library Record* (2013). Wood’s bio-bibliography of him is in Anthony Wood, *Athenæ Oxonienses*, 4 vols. (London, 1813-20), vol. 3, cols. 185-89.

<sup>3</sup> Wood – who echoes Plot’s praise – lists Lydiat’s many published and unpublished works. Among the latter there was even a Gospel Harmony written in Hebrew. His manuscript collections of theological lectures, in English, parts of his cycle of 600 sermons on the gospels, are among the Rawlinson MSS in the Bodleian.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Plot, *The Natural History of Oxford-Shire* (Oxford, 1677), p. 224.

<sup>5</sup> William H. Donahue, ‘A Hitherto Unreported Pre-Keplerian Oval Orbit’, *Journal for the History of Astronomy* 4 (1973), pp. 192-94. In 1609 Lydiat presented to the college library a set of his own works, all still in the collection. See the Benefactors Book, p. 47.

<sup>6</sup> Bodleian Library, MS Bodl. 313, fol. 45r.

estate. and some course will speedilie be taken for y<sup>r</sup> enlargement. soe I committ yow  
to goe and rest

5 Decemb: 1633

yr verie louing Frend  
T. Riues

Ryves was at this point advocate-general and also master of requests extraordinary to Charles I, and so was well placed to relay such promises, but there is nothing to suggest that his gift of £5 was anything other than a personal gift – the two men had after all overlapped together at New College for around five years. Poor Lydiat was released, and eventually died in 1646, possibly as a result of being beaten up by soldiers, which is rather apposite for the next section.

### III.

A sketch of Bruno Ryves's life was provided in the last issue, but to recap briefly: Bruno became a clerk at New College in 1610, took his B.A. in 1616, and then migrated to Magdalen where he took his M.A. (1619), and eventually his B.D. (1632) and his D.D. (1639). He was a convinced Laudian, and a Royalist when war broke out; indeed, he joined the Royalist army. His main claim to fame, then as now, was his civil war journalism, for he was the sole author of the periodical *Mercurius rusticus* ('The rustic Mercury'). As Joad Raymond explains in *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

The first issue of *Mercurius rusticus* was published on 20 May 1643; it appeared irregularly for twenty-one issues, the last on 16 March 1644. Printed in Oxford this royalist newsbook detailed the murders, robberies, plunderings, and other outrages suffered by the king's subjects, and the sacrileges committed upon the cathedral churches of England by parliamentarian troops. It was reprinted as a single volume (not concealing its periodical origins, and probably using the newsbook as the copy text) in 1646, and was reprinted in 1647, in 1648 (as *Angliae ruina*), 1685, and 1723. The collected editions were published with a fine engraved frontispiece featuring ten scenes from the civil wars.

It is the 1685 collected edition of this vivid, very readable, and hopelessly biased newsbook that we have recently purchased for the library.<sup>7</sup> Below I present a very slightly abridged text of one complete newsletter, the one detailing the desecration of Winchester Cathedral by roundhead soldiers. It is one of the great accounts of civil war iconoclasm: watch out in particular for the soldiers smashing the stained-glass windows<sup>8</sup> with the exhumed bones of England's ancient kings – and then riding out into the streets of Winchester, dressed in looted surplices and bearing before them twisted organ-pipes, parodies of chivalrous knights. Before launching into his catalogue of atrocities, however, Ryves is careful to offer a historical briefing on Wykeham and his See. Indeed, this is excellent journalism: horrified indignation with educational asides.

#### Mercurius Rusticus, &c.

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<sup>7</sup> *Mercurius Rusticus, or the Countries Complaint of the Barbarous Outrages Committed by the Sectaries of this Late Flourishing Kingdom. Together with a Brief Chronology of the Battels, Sieges, Conflicts, and other most remarkable passages, from the beginning of this unnatural war, to the 25th of March, 1646.* London: printed for Richard Green, bookseller in Cambridge, 1685. 8°. Wing R2450 / ESTC R16532. We acquired it from Worthydown Books in August 2014; the book bears the stamp of Bradford Public Libraries. On its title-page there is an early signature, that of one 'Gervase Hamond'.

<sup>8</sup> This accounts for the peculiar look of the West Window today – at the Restoration, the broken glass was gathered up and set back into the window, but at random, creating the odd collage-mosaic effect.

### III.

The Rebels defying God in his own House: their Sacrilege, in stealing Church Plate and goods: their irreverence towards the King, by abusing his Statue: their heathenish barbarity in violating the bones and ashes of dead Monarchs, Bishops, Saints and Confessors in the Cathedral Church of Winchester, &c.

THE NEXT INSTANCE which I shall give of the Rebels Sacrilege, and Profaneness, is in the Cathedral Church of Winchester ... Before we tell you by whom, and in what manner, this Church was robbed and spoyled of its ornaments and beauty, it will not be impertinent (while it may serve as an aggravation of their impiety) briefly to set down, by whom this Church was built, and so richly adorned, as lately we saw it. This magnificent Structure which now stands, was began by Walkelinus the thirty fifth Bishop of this Sea: which work left imperfect and but begun by him, was but coldly prosecuted by the succeeding Bishops, untill William Wickham (the magnificent Sole founder of two S. Mary Colledges, the one in Oxford commonly called New Colledge, the other a Nurcery to this, near Winchester) came to possess this See: He amongst many other works of Piety, built the whole Nave, or body of this Church, from the Quire, to the West-end, the Chappels on the East-end, beyond the Quire, had their several Founders: The hallowed Ornaments, and utensils of this Church, being many, rich, and costly, were the gifts of several benefactors, who tho their Names perhaps are not recorded in earth, have found their reward in Heaven. This Church was first differenced by the Name of S. Amphibalus; who received a Crown of Martyrdom under the Persecution of Dioclesian: Next it exchanged this name for that of S. Peter; and again, this, for that of S. Swithin, the eighteenth Bishop of this See: Last of all, it was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, whose blessed name is now called upon it: which Holy name though it could not but put the Rebels in mind whose possession and House it was, did not at all afford it patronage, and protection from their accursed rage, and madness.

The Rebels under the Conduct of Sir William Waller, sate down before the City of Winchester, on Tuesday the 12. of December, 1642. about twelve of the Clock, and entered the City that afternoon between two and three: being Masters of the City, they instantly fall upon the Close, under a pretence to search for Cavaliers. They seize upon the Prebends Horses, and demand their Persons with many threatning words: That night, they break into some of the Prebends Houses, such Houses as they were directed unto, by their Brethren the Seditious Schismatics of the City; and Plundered their goods. But the Castle not yet surrendred into the Rebels hands something awed their insolency: which being the next day delivered up to their power, did not only take away the Restraint which was upon them, but encouraged them, without check, or controul to rob, and defile, both God and all good men. Wednesday therefore and Wednesday night being spent in Plundering the City, and Close, on Thursday Morning between nine, and ten of the Clock, (hours set apart for better employments, and therefore purposely in probability, chosen by them, being resolved to prophane every thing that was Canonical) they violently break open the Cathedral Church, and being entred, to let in the Tyde, they presently open the great West doors, where the Barbarous Soldiers stood ready, nay greedy to rob God, and pollute his Temple. The doors being open, as if they meant to invade God himself, as well as his possession, they enter the Church with Colours flying, their Drums beating, their Matches fired, and that all might have their part in so horrid an attempt, some of their Troops of Horse also accompanied them in their march, and rode up through the body of the Church, and Quire, until they came to the Altar, there they begin their work, they rudely pluck down the Table and break the Rail: and afterwards carrying it to an

Ale-house, they set it on fire, and in that fire burnt the Books of Common-Prayer, and all the Singing Books belonging to the Quire: they throw down the Organ, and break the Stories of the Old and New Testament, curiously cut out in carved work, beautified with Colours, and set round about the top of the Stalls of the Quire: from hence they turn to the Monuments of the Dead, some they utterly demolish, others they deface. They begin with Bishop Fox, his Chappel, which they utterly deface, they break all the glass windows of this Chappel, not because they had any Pictures in them, either of Patriarch, Prophet, Apostle or Saint, but because they were of painted, Coloured Glass: they demolish, and overturn the Monuments of Cardinal Beaufort, Son to John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, by Katharine Swinfort founder of the Hospital of S. Cross near Winchester, who sate Bishop of this See forty three years. They deface the Monument of William of Wainflet, Bishop likewise of Winchester, Lord Chancellor of England, and the Magnificent Founder of Magdalen Colledge in Oxford, which Monument in a grateful Piety, being lately beautified, by some that have, or lately had Relation to that Foundation, made these Rebels more eager upon it, to deface it: but while that Colledge; the unparralleld example of his bounty, stands, in despite of the malice of these inhuman Rebels, William of Wainflet cannot want a more lasting Monument, to transmit his memory to Posterity: from hence they go into Queen Maries Chappel, so called because in it she was Married to King Philip of Spain: here they brake the Communion Table in pieces, and the Velvet Chair whereon she sate when she was Married. They attempted to deface the Monument of the late Lord Treasurer the Earl of Portland, but being in Brass, their violence made small impression on it, therefore they leave that, and turn to his Fathers Monument, which being of Stone was more obnoxious to their fury: here mistaking a Judg for a Bishop, led into the error by the resemblance or counterfeit of a Square cap on the head of the Statue, they strike off not only the Cap, but the head too of the Statue, and so leave it. Amongst other acts of Bounty, and Piety, done by Richard Fox the fifty seventh Bishop of this See, he covered the Quire, the Presbytery, and the Iles adjoining, with a goodly vault, and new glazed all the Windows of that part of the Church, and caused the bones of such Kings, Princes, and Prelates, as had been Buried in this Church, and lay dispersed and scattered in several parts of the Cathedral, to be collected and put into several Chests of lead, with inscriptions on each Chest, whose bones lodged in them: These Chests (to preserve them from rude, and prophane hands) he caused to be placed on the top of a Wall, of exquisite workmanship, built by him, to inclose the Presbytery: there, never to be removed (as a man might think) but by the last Trump, did rest the bones of many Kings and Queens, as of Alfredus, Edwardus Senior, Eadredus the Brother of Athelstane, Edwinus, Canutus, Hardecanutus, Emma the Mother, and Edward the Confessor her Son, Kiniglissus the first founder of the Cathedral of Winchester, Egbert who abolishing the Heptarchy of the Saxons, was the first English Monarch, William Rufus and divers others: with these, in the Chests, were deposited the bones of many Godly Bishops, and Confessors, as, of Birinus, Hedda, Swithinus, Frithestanus, S. Elphegus the Confessor, Stigandus, Wina, and others. Had not the barbarous, Inhuman impiety, of these Schismaticks, and Rebels, shewed the contrary, we could not have imagined, that any thing but the like Piety that here inshrined them, or a Resurrection should ever have disturbed the repose of these venerable, yet not Popish Reliques. But these monsters of men, to whom nothing is holy, nothing is Sacred, did not stick to prophane, and violate these Cabinets of the dead, and to scatter their bones all over the pavement of the Church: for on the North side of the Quire, they threw down the Chests, wherein were deposited the bones of the Bishops, the like they did to the bones of William Rufus, of Queen Emma, of

Hardecanutus, and Edward the Confessor, and were going on, to practise the like impiety on the bones of all the rest of the West Saxon Kings. But the Outcry of the People, detesting so great inhumanity, caused some of their Commanders (more Compassionate to these Ancient Monuments of the dead than the Rest) to come in amongst them, and to restrain their madness. But that devilish malice which was not permitted to rage and overflow to the spurning and trampling on the bones of all, did satiate it self, even to a prodigious kind of wantonness, on those, which were already in their power: And therefore as if they meant (if it had been possible) to make these bones contract a Posthume guilt, by being now made passive Instruments, of more than heathenish Sacrilege, and prophaneness, those Windows which they could not reach with their Swords, Muskets, or Rests, they brake to pieces, by throwing at them, the bones of Kings, Queens, Bishops, Confessors and Saints: So that the spoil done on the Windows, will not be repaired for a Thousand Pounds: nor did the Living find better measure from them than the dead: for whereas our Dread Sovereign that now is (the best of King) was graciously pleased, as a pledg of his princely favour to this Church, to honour it with the gift of his own Statue, together with the Statue of his dear Father King James of ever blessed memory; both of massy brass: both which Statues were erected at the front, of the entrance into the Quire: These Atheistical Rebels, as if they would not have so much of the Militia, to remain with the King, as the bare Image, and representation of a Sword by his side; They break off the Swords from the sides of both the Statues: they break the Cross from off the Globe, in the hand of the Statue of our gracious Sovereign now living, and with their Swords hacked and hewed the Crown on the head of it, swearing they would bring him back to his Parliament. . . . But what wonder is it, that these miscreants should offer such scornful indignities to the Representation of his Royal Person, and the Emblems of his Sacred power, when the heads of this damnable Rebellion (who set these their Agents on work) offer worse affronts to his Sacred person himself, and by their Rebellions Votes, and Illegal Ordinances daily strike at the Substance of that power, of which the Crown, the Sword, and Scepter are but Emblems and shadows, which yet notwithstanding, ought to have been venerable and awful to these men, in respect of their Relation. After all this, as if what they had already done, were all too little, they go on in their horrible wickedness, they seize upon all the Communion Plate, the Bibles, and Service-books, rich Hangings, large Cushions of velvet, all the Pulpit-Clothes, some whereof were of Cloth of Silver, some of Cloth of Gold: They break up the Muniment House, and take away the common Seal of the Church, supposing it to be Silver, and a fair piece of gilt Plate, given by Bishop Cotton: they tear the Evidences of their Lands, and cancel their Charter; in a word, what ever they found in the Church of any value, and portable, they take it with them, what was neither, they either deface, or destroy it. And now having Ransacked the Church, having defied God in his own house, and the King in his own Statue, having violated the Urns of the dead, having abused the bones, and scattered the Ashes of deceased Monarchs, Bishops, Saints, and Confessors, they return in Triumph, bearing their spoils with them. The Troopers (because they were most: conspicuous) ride through the streets in Surplesses, with such Hoods, and Tippetts as they found: and that they might boast to the World how glorious a victory they had achieved, they hold out their Trophies to all spectators: for the Troopers thus clad in the Priests Vestments, rode carrying Common Prayer-Books in one hand, and some broken Organ pipes, together with the mangled pieces of Carved work but now mentioned, containing some Histories of both Testaments, in the other. In all this, giving too just occasion, to all good Christians to complain with the Psalmist, O God the Heathen are come into thine Inheritance. Thy holy Temples have they defiled, The

dead Bodies of thy Servants have they abused, and scattered their bones as one heweth wood upon the Earth: Help us, O God of our Salvation, for the glory of thy Name, Psal. 79.<sup>9</sup>

William Poole  
Fellow Librarian

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<sup>9</sup> *Mercurius Rusticus*, 2<sup>nd</sup> pag., pp. 144-52.