

Transcription Exercise

This is a transcription and short commentary of GB 1953 BTMS/10, *A Congratulatory poem on the Accession of their Majesties King William and Queen Mary to the Throne.*, held in the Bowdler Tract Collection of the Roderic Bowen Library and Archive in Lampeter, Ceredigion.¹ GB 1953 BTMS/10 is a manuscript of two pages of paper which has been bound in a volume of printed tract pamphlets.² This latter is Volume 10 of the Bowdler Tracts, a volume collated by Thomas Bowdler II, 1661-1738.³

Thomas Bowdler II began collecting tracts in his youth. As the Glorious Revolution and the accession of William III and Mary II to the English throne took place in 1688 and 1689 it is likely that this volume was collated from some of the earlier tracts in the collection.⁴ Thomas Bowdler II was a Nonjuror and Jacobite and therefore would himself have been opposed to the accession of William III and Mary II to the throne but he collected tract pamphlets and other ephemera from across the spectra of politics and religion.⁵

The numbers in the top right hand corners of the first and third pages of the manuscript seem to be in the same ink and handwriting as the poem in the main body of the manuscript. Knowing that this manuscript is part of a collection of pamphlets and tracts collated by Thomas Bowdler

¹ 'A Congratulatory Poem on the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne [1689?], Tract Collection: Manuscript Material. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS/10', *Jisc Archives Hub*, (undated) <<http://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb1953-btms/btms/10>>, para. 1; 'Traethodynnau Bowdler', *Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant University of Wales Trinity Saint David*, (undated) <<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/cy/llyfrgell/casgliadau-arbennig-ac-archifau/traethodynnau-bowdler>>, para. 1

² 'A Congratulatory Poem on the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne [1689?], Tract Collection: Manuscript Material. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS/10', (undated), para. 5

³ 'A Congratulatory Poem on the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne [1689?], Tract Collection: Manuscript Material. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS/10', (undated), para. 1; 'Bowdler Tracts', *Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant University of Wales Trinity Saint David*, (undated) <<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/special-collections-and-archives/bowdler-tracts>>, para. 11

⁴ 'Bowdler Tracts', (undated), para. 4

⁵ 'A Congratulatory Poem on the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne [1689?], Tract Collection: Manuscript Material. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS/10', (undated), para. 6; 'Bowdler Tracts', (undated), paras. 3 & 7

It this could perhaps indicate that this is Thomas Bowdler's own handwriting. Bowdler catalogued his tract collection and so this may be a part of his original cataloguing.⁶ This catalogue is still held in the Roderic Bowen Library and Archive in Lampeter with the Bowdler Tract Collection.⁷

The photographs available for use for this transcription are not of the clearest quality at the edges of the pages. In some places the page edges are blurred or are cut off entirely. Certain words are therefore unclear and suggestions have been made where possible based on the context and by making comparisons with the letters in the handwriting. These suggestions are to be found in italics and double brackets at the end of the lines of 25, 35, 36, 72, and 77 in the main body of the transcription. For this reason the photographs have been included in an appendix at the end of this transcription and commentary and can be found after the Reference List.

The poem is composed of eight verses and has a relatively simple rhyme scheme, usually AABBCDD, there are an additional two lines in verse six, AABBCDDEE, and this changes again at verse seven, ABABCCDD, before reverting to the original rhyme scheme for verse eight.

207

- 1 A Congratulatory poem on the Accession of
- 2 theire Ma.[jes]ties K[in]g. W.[illia]m. and Q.[ueen] M.[ar]y
- 3 to thie Throne.
- 4 Let En.[gland] Rejoice w:[i]\th/ heart & w:[i]\th/ voice
- 5 And sing loud Hosana's for it's happy Choice
- 6 Experience Convinces we've gott two such princes
- 7 That all taking Tyranny now Banisht hence is

⁶ 'Bowdler Tracts', (undated), para. 5

⁷ *Ibid.*

8 with thankes let us mention
9 Our Blessed Convention.
10 That Cured all our miseries & healed our Disention.
11 ffor now there's noe feare our Land can miscarry
12 Since this scepter is wielded by W[illiam] and M.[ary]
13 2
14 Wee had forreigne soldiers nay some papists too
15 Which utterly did the whole knigdome undo
16 But now wee need feare ffrench & Irish noe more
17 ffor it's plaine wee have beate them o'[v]re & o'[v]re
18 Ireland's subdued
19 That nation soe rude.
20 And at sea wee have sunke all the ffrench men so lud
21 And noe papist soldiers nor strangers shall tarry
22 here in the pure Reigne of W[illiam] and M[ary]
23 3
24 The nation did under such sad Taxes groane.
25 That noe man knew surely how much was his o – ((wn))
26 The late K[ing] he soe much did both take & borrow
27 Our purses he emptied our hearts fill'd with sorrow
28 But now England's pleased
29 of her burthen's she's eeased
30 And no Cruell taxes shall ever be Raised
31 no, no subjects property e'[v]re shall miscarry
32 under the happy R[ign]e: of W[illiam] and M.[ary]

33

4

34 Wee feard' the sad miseries of warr before

35 But thanke our two soveraignes the danger's o – ((er))

36 The ffrench dare not meddle Scotts Rebels are do – ((wn/ne))

37 The Irish Cry Quarter and all is our owne.

38 The ffrench. he wants.

39 shipps money & men.

40 And the late K[ing] is Running thither againe.

41 Thus England still triumphs and nought can miscarry

42 While the throne's double fill'd with W[illiam] and M[ar]y

43

5

44 While the late K[ing] did rule our shipps could not pass.

45 And at a low Ebb our trading it was.

46 All things soe Deare the poore could not live

47 And money soe scare none could them Relieve

209

48 Bat now plenty flows.

49 And debts are all paid

50 Money abounds & an an excellent trade

51 The merchants grow Rich & nought does miscarry

52 while England is govern'd by W[illiam] and M.[ary]

53

6

54 Nay miraculous providence w.[i]th/ Care & CSuccess.

55 Doth all the Designes of our Soveraignes Bless.

56 Our ffleete has done wonders our Army the same.

57 And Schomberg has purchased a ne'[v]re dyeing fame.

58 The late K[ing]'s soldiers

59 By Sea and by Land.

60 Doe Dye of the Rott while ours firmly stand

61 Our Brave Royall buildnigs mount up to the skye

62 To showe the firme standing of our Monarchy

63 Thus everythings prospers. & nought can miscarry

64 That e'[v]re is Attempted by W[illiam] and M.[ary]

65 7

66 K:[ing] Ja:[mes] w:[i]\th/ ill Breeding Corrupted the Nation

67 in letting young Gentry goe Travell to ffrance.

68 Soe usefull scialts Hydeing could nere get in fashion

69 They spent all their tyme to ride ffence & dance

70 But now for monsieur

71 At Court you may heare

72 The noble Louys.s Rellnm tis oft pamime he – ((re))

73 To learne with good breeding at home y\e/ may –

74 Such Crowds are come over with W.[illiam] and M.[ary]

75 8

76 Therefore let us all as well greate as small

77 Joyne heart, hand, and purse at our princes first ca – ((ll))

78 No matter for money fie on't 'tis but dross.

79 They gave us our wealth; & it's theire's to a Cross

80 Let's prise these brave men

81 That brought a prince in

- 82 And truckle to the Dutch, to do less is a sin
- 83 Who Grumble to doe it shall as Traitors miscarry
- 84 ffor it shewe's they doe neither love W[illiam] not M.[ary]

The poem is somewhat problematic to date with certainty. The title states that it is a poem for the accession of William III and Mary II. The accession took place in 1689 but the verses seem to make reference to events which occurred at the Battle of the Boyne on 1st July 1690. James II is referred to as having gone into exile “again” in verse four, implying that this is his second time fleeing.⁸ The references to the French and Irish being defeated in verses two and four also would point to the poem being written after the defeats of the French at the Battle of Bantry Bay on 11th May 1689. The poem makes reference to ships and maritime trade, and the larger and more significant defeat of the Jacobite Irish and French armies at the Battle of the Boyne.⁹ There is mention in verse six of Schomberg.¹⁰ Frederick Herman de Schomberg, first duke of Schomberg, was a prominent Dutch military commander and firm Protestant.¹¹ William had appointed Schomberg as the commander of his forces during the expedition into Ireland which culminated at the Battle of the Boyne during which Schomberg was shot and killed.¹² His death at the Battle of the Boyne would align with the poem’s claim that “Schomberg has purchased a ne’[v]re dyeing fame.”¹³ This would seem to place the date the poem later than the accession or coronation of William III and Mary II and seems much more congratulatory of them on the quashing of the domestic Jacobite rebellions which took place in Ireland.

⁸ Line 40

⁹ Lines 20, 44, 45, and 50

Robert Dunlop, rev. by Harman Murtagh, ‘Schomberg, Frederick Herman de [formerly Frederick Herman von Schönberg], first duke of Schomberg (1615-1690)’ in Brian Harrison and H. C. G. Matthew, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: in Association with The British Academy: From the earliest times to the year 2000: Volume 49: Sartorius-Sharman* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 248

¹⁰ Line 57

¹¹ Robert Dunlop and Harman Murtagh, ‘Schomberg, Frederick Herman de [formerly Frederick Herman von Schönberg], first duke of Schomberg’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (23rd September 2004) <<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/24822>>, para. 11

¹² Dunlop and Murtagh, (2004), paras. 16 & 19

¹³ Line 57

This revisiting of the date, and the verses which detail the impact that the Jacobite French and Irish troops had on the country, is interesting to explore. The part of Britain affected in this way was Ireland. French and Irish Roman Catholic troops were forcibly billeted on Protestant and Anglican civilians of towns and cities in Ireland after the Jacobite armies had besieged and captured them. Hannah Rose, 1718 to 1791, detailed in her family history the experience of her grandparents and their children, including her own mother Grace, during the Jacobite occupation of Dublin.¹⁴ According to Hannah her grandparents constructed a partition wall in their kitchen to create a private space for them to sleep in and their children and apprentices were forced to sleep in the cellar instead of the usual upstairs rooms.¹⁵ “When my Grandparents were ill in bed the soldiers would call them names and threaten to fire the house over their heads.” These experiences of the Zeane family in Dublin reflect verses two and three of this poem. “Wee had forreigne soldiers nay some papists too Which utterly did the whole knigdome undo”.¹⁶ Lines 19 and 20 in verse two match the description of how the Zeane family was treated by the soldiers billeted on them. The French are “so lud”, lewd, and the Irish are “soe rude”. Line 21 continues to say that because of William III and Mary II “noe papist soldiers nor strangers shall tarry”.

Hannah Rose also recorded how high the expenses of living became during the Jacobite occupation of Ireland. The cost of corn became so high people could not afford to buy it. “Corn was 20/- a bushel and people were forced to eat barley and oats.”¹⁷ She wrote that metal was confiscated from the populace to be melted down to create base coin for James II. “My Grandfather hid his valuables under the boarded floor of the kitchen. those who did not do so saw all their brass and copper things carried away to make base money, King James being

¹⁴ Hannah Rose, Lab/PER/4/10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and Archives

¹⁵ Hannah Rose, Lab/PER/4/10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and Archives

¹⁶ Lines 14 & 15

¹⁷ Hannah Rose, Lab/PER/4/10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and Archives

reduced to such great necessity.”¹⁸ This again aligns with the poem. In lines 24 to 27 the writer writes that “The nation did under such sad Taxes groane. That noe man knew surely how much was his o – ((*wn*)) The late K[ing] he soe much did both take & borrow Our purses he emptied...” and again in lines 30 and 31 “no Cruell taxes shall ever be Raised no, no subjects property e’[v]re shall miscarry”.

The poem is anonymous but an argument can be made that the author was perhaps living in Ireland at the time of the Jacobite occupation. The impact of the occupying armies on the everyday life of the writer seems to be quite keenly felt and would not have affected the population of the rest of Britain in this way.

The “noble Louys” of verse seven is Louix XIV of France who received James II, his queen Mary of Modena and children and hosted James II, his family, and the supporters of the Jacobite cause following their exile from England.¹⁹ In line 68 the writer has crossed the second l making it a t. A more probable reading would be “scialls” for skills. It would appear to fit the meaning of verse seven with its implied criticism of Louis XIV and his court at Versailles. Line 72 has been read as “pamime”, perhaps a shortened form of pantomime, after reference to seventeenth century abbreviations.²⁰

The poem is a congratulatory poem, although in the manuscript itself it is titled as a “Congratulatory” poem. This could potentially point to this manuscript being penned by a copyist as opposed to being an original composition by the original poet. Other examples of congratulatory poems from the seventeenth century, such as the one by Aphra Behn, c.1640 to

¹⁸ Hannah Rose, Lab/PER/4/10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and Archives

¹⁹ W. A. Speck, ‘James II and VII’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (23rd September 2004) <<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/14593>>, para. 74

²⁰ P. M. Hoskin, S. L. Slinn, and C. C. Webb, *Reading The Past: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century English Handwriting: Facsimiles, transcripts & reading notes* (York: Borthwick Publications, 2001), pp. ii-iii

1689, for Mary II on her accession to the English throne, were much grander and more flowery.²¹

This is interesting to note when considering the original poet being perhaps someone who is more involved with trade and not so much a poet.

The manuscript makes no regular use of punctuation. This is typical of the inconsistencies in punctuation found in writing of the seventeenth century.²² There is use of full stops, apostrophes, and colons in the abbreviations of names, such as William and Mary, and also abbreviations of commonly used words, such as with and ever, again typical of the seventeenth century and common conventions.²³ There is non-standardised use of apostrophes, for example in plurals, as seen in line 29 with “burthen’s”. The use of a double lowercase f, as seen in “ffrench”, represents a capital f, a form which has fallen out of use in common modern English but which is still seen in some English surnames. On two occasions in the manuscript the writer transposes the i and n in kingdom and in buildings to “knigdome” and “buildnigs”, found in lines 15 and 61.

This poem is seemingly unassuming but gives insight into the lived experiences of the original poet. Maybe this is why the poem was collected by Bowdler, someone interested in a plethora of everyday pamphlets and tracts, and perhaps why it is the only manuscript item in a collection of printed papers.

²¹ Janet Todd ‘Behn, Aphra [Aphara] (1640?-1689)’ in Brian Harrison and H. C. G. Matthew, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: in Association with The British Academy: From the earliest times to the year 2000: Volume 4: Barney-Bellasis* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), p. 841

²² Hoskin, Slinn, and Webb, (2001), p. iii

²³ Hoskin, Slinn, and Webb, (2001), p. iii

Reference List

- 'A Congratulatory Poem on the accession of King William and Queen Mary to the Throne [1689?], Tract Collection: Manuscript Material. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS/10', *Jisc Archives Hub*, (undated) <<http://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb1953-btms/btms/10>>, [last accessed 22nd April 2025]
- 'Bowdler Tracts', *Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant University of Wales Trinity Saint David*, (undated) <<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/special-collections-and-archives/bowdler-tracts>>, [last accessed 22nd April 2025]
- 'Thomas Bowdler II and Thomas Bowdler III (collectors), Tract Collection: Manuscript Material, [1647-1802?]. University of Wales Trinity Saint David/Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant. GB 1953 BTMS', *Jisc Archives Hub*, (undated) <<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/data/gb1953-btms>>, [last accessed 22nd April 2025]
- 'Traethodynnau Bowdler', *Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant University of Wales Trinity Saint David*, (undated) <<https://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/cy/llyfrgell/casgliadau-arbennig-ac-archifau/traethodynnau-bowdler>>, [last accessed 22nd April 2025]
- Dunlop, Robert and Murtagh, Harman, 'Schomberg, Frederick Herman de [formerly Frederick Herman von Schönberg], first duke of Schomberg', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (23rd September 2004) <<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/24822>> [last accessed 22nd April 2025]
- Dunlop, Robert, rev. by Murtagh, Harman, 'Schomberg, Frederick Herman de [formerly Frederick Herman von Schönberg], first duke of Schomberg (1615-1690)' in Harman, Harrison, Brian and Matthew, H. C. G., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: in Association with The British Academy: From the earliest times to the year 2000: Volume 49: Sartorius-Sharman* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004)
- Hoskin, P. M., Slinn, S. L. and Webb, C. C., *Reading The Past: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century English Handwriting: Facsimiles, transcripts & reading notes* (York: Borthwick Publications, 2001)
- Rose, Hannah, Lab/PER/4/10, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Library and Archives, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire
- Speck, W. A., 'James II and VII', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, (23rd September 2004) <<https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/14593>> [last accessed 23rd April 2025]
- Todd, Janet, 'Behn, Aphra [Aphara] (1640?-1689)' in Harrison, Brian and Matthew, H. C. G., *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: in Association with The British Academy: From the earliest times to the year 2000: Volume 4: Barney-Bellasis* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004)

Appendix I: Photographs of GB 1953 BTMS/10 (A Congratulatory poem on the Accession of their Majesties Kg. W.m. and Q. M.y to thie Throne.)

(3207)

A Congratulatory Poem on the Accession of
 their Majesties Kg. W.m. and Q. M.y
 to the Throne.

Let in. R. onie w. Heart & o. Voice
 And sing loud Hosanna for it's happy Choice
 Experience somtimes we've got two such primes
 That all talking Tyranny now Bonittance is
 With thanks let us mention
 Our Blessed Convention.

That cured all our miseries & healed our Dissention.
 For now there's no fear our Land can miscarry
 Since the scepter is wielded by W and M.

2

Let us not fear foreign Soldiers nay, some papists too
 Which viler did we wote of in old times
 But now we need fear none & trust no more
 For it's plain we have what we had more & ore
 Ireland's Labour
 That Action soe rude.

And at sea we have limke all the French men so late
 And not papist Soldiers nor Strangers shall carry
 Here in the pure R. of W and M.

The Nation did advise that sad Capots grow
That no man know surely how much was this
The lab. & too much of both take & borrow
Our purp. & omphes our hearts fill'd with sorrow

But now England's please
And no fraude Capots shall ever be paid
No, no Subjects proper by, did shall military
Under the happy R. of W and M.

4
We found the sad miseries of war before
But thank our two Sovereigns the danger
The French dare not meddle Scots, Rebels, or
The Irish & Quakers and all is our own.

The French do want
Ships, money & men.
And the late his Jamming tailors against
Thus England still committes and ought can miserie
While the French's doubts fill'd with W and M.

5
While the late did rule our ships could not pass.
And at a low tide our trade might was.
Our times too dark the poor could not live
And money too scarce none could live in Poland

209
But now plenty of flour
And debt are paid

Money abounds & an excellent trade
That merchants grow Rich by no art but by carry
While England is govern'd by W and M.
6
New miraculous providence. w. Charles & Sueff.
To all the Designs of our Sovereigns R. & S.
Our fleets has done wonders our Army has done
And Schomberg has purchased more dying fame.

The late's
By Sea and by Land.
So God of late hath made our family stand
Our Grand Royall Buildings mount up to the sky
So late has fine standing of our Monarchy
Thus our times prosper & no more can miserie
That ere is attempted by W and M.

7
N. J. a. w. M. Dreading Corrupt the Nation
in sitting young Country god Devote to France.
For a full weeks. Dreading could not get in fashion
They spent all their time for a full weeks in France

But now for Monie

At Court you may see

The noble Guys. Shall in a soft eye mist
To learn what good breeding at home & abroad
Such crowd and come over with W and M.

8
Therefore be still as well great as small
Joyne heart hand & trust at our primas. f. f. f.
No more for money fire on't is but drag.
Paygers as our wealth, but it's favours to a drag.

Let's rise late brave men
That brought o' primas
And thank to the Dutch, to doo life is a m.
Who humble to doo it shall as create. f. f. f.
For it shall be say doo with the W and M.