

**Classic Poetry Series**

# **Henry VIII, King of England**

**- poems -**

**Publication Date:**

2004

**Publisher:**

PoemHunter.Com - The World's Poetry Archive

## **Green Groweth the Holly**

1 Green groweth the holly,  
2 So doth the ivy.  
3 Though winter blasts blow never so high,  
4 Green groweth the holly.

5 As the holly groweth green  
6 And never changeth hue,  
7 So I am, ever hath been,  
8 Unto my lady true.

9 As the holly groweth green  
10 With ivy all alone  
11 When flowers cannot be seen  
12 And greenwood leaves be gone,

13 Now unto my lady  
14 Promise to her I make,  
15 From all other only  
16 To her I me betake.

17 Adieu, mine own lady,  
18 Adieu, my special  
19 Who hath my heart truly  
20 Be sure, and ever shall.

Henry VIII, King of England

### **If Love now Reigned as it hath been**

1 If love now reigned as it hath been  
2 And were rewarded as it hath sin,  
  
3 Noble men then would sure ensearch  
4 All ways whereby they might it reach,  
  
5 But envy reigneth with such disdain  
6 And causeth lovers outwardly to refrain,  
  
7 Which puts them to more and more  
8 Inwardly most grievous and sore.  
  
9 The fault in whom I cannot set,  
10 But let them tell which love doth get--  
  
11 To lovers I put now sure this case:  
12 Which of their loves doth get them grace?  
  
13 And unto them which doth it know  
14 Better than do I, I think it so.

Henry VIII, King of England

## **Lusty Youth should us ensue**

1 Lusty Youth should us ensue.  
2 His merry heart shall sure all rue.  
3 For whatsoever they do him tell,  
4 It is not for him, we know it well.

5 For they would have him his Liberty refrain  
6 And all merry company for to disdain,  
7 But I will not so whatsoever they say,  
8 But follow his mind in all that we may.

9 How should Youth himself best use  
10 But all disdainers for to refuse?  
11 Youth has, as chief assurance,  
12 Honest Mirth with Virtue's pastance.

13 For in them consisteth great honour,  
14 Though that disdainers would therein put error,  
15 For they do sue to get them grace  
16 All only riches to purchase.

17 With Good Order, Counsel, and Equity,  
18 Good Lord, grant us our mansion to be!  
19 For without their good guidance  
20 Youth should fall in great mischance.

21 For Youth is frail and prompt to do,  
22 As well vices as virtues to ensue.  
23 Wherefore by these he must be guided  
24 And Virtue's pastance must be therein used.

25 Now unto God this prayer we make,  
26 That this rude play may well be take,  
27 And that we may our faults amend,  
28 An bliss obtain at our last end.  
Amen.

Henry VIII, King of England

## **Passtime with good company**

1 Pastime with good company  
2 I love and shall unto I die.  
3 Grudge whoso will, but none deny,  
4 So God be pleased, this live will I.  
5 For my pastance  
6 Hunt, sing, and dance.  
7 My heart is set  
8 All godely sport  
9 To my comfort.  
10 Who shall me let?

11 Youth will have needs daliance,  
12 Of good or ill some pastance.  
13 Company me thinketh then best  
14 All thoftes and fantasies to digest.  
15 For idleness  
16 Is chief mistress  
17 Of vices all.  
18 Than who can say  
19 But "pass the day"  
20 Is best of all?

21 Company with honesty  
22 Is virtue, and vice to flee.  
23 Company is good or ill  
24 But every man hath his free will.  
25 The best ensue,  
26 The worst eschew,  
27 My mind shall be.  
28 Virtue to use,  
29 Vice to refuse,  
30 I shall use me.

Henry VIII, King of England

## **The Time of Youth is to be Spent**

- 1 The time of youth is to be spent  
2 But vice in it should be forfeit.
- 3 Pastimes there be, I nought truly,  
4 Which one may use and vice deny.
- 5 And they be pleasant to God and man,  
6 Those should we covet, win who can,
- 7 As feats of arms and such other  
8 Whereby activeness one may utter.
- 9 Comparisons in them may lawfully be set,  
10 For thereby courage is surely out fet.
- 11 Virtue it is then youth for to spend  
12 In good disports which it doth fend.

Henry VIII, King of England

## Though some Saith that Youth Ruleth me

1    Though some saith that youth ruleth me,  
2        I trust in age to tarry.  
3    God and my right and my duty,  
4        From them I shall never vary,  
5        Though some say that youth ruleth me.

6    I pray you all that aged be,  
7        How well did ye your youth carry?  
8    I think some worse, of each degree:  
9        Therein a wager lay dare I,  
10        Though some saith that youth ruleth me.

11   Pastimes of youth sometime among,  
12        None can say but necessary.  
13   I hurt no man, I do no wrong,  
14        I love true where I did marry,  
15        Though some saith that youth ruleth me.

16   Then soon discuss that hence we must.  
17        Pray we to God and Saint Mary  
18   That all amend, and here an end,  
19        Thus saith the king, the eighth Harry,  
20        Though some saith that youth ruleth me.

Henry VIII, King of England

### **Though that Men do Call it Dotage**

1    Though that men do call it dotage,  
2    Who loveth not wanteth courage;  
  
3    And whosoever may love get,  
4    From Venus sure he must it fet  
  
5    Or else from her which is her heir,  
6    And she to him must seem most fair.  
  
7    With eye and mind doth both agree.  
8    There is no boot: there must it be.  
  
9    The eye doth look and represent,  
10   But mind affirmeth with full consent.  
  
11   Thus am I fixed without grudge:  
12   Mine eye with heart doth me so judge.  
  
13   Love maintaineth all noble courage.  
14   Who love disdaineth is all of the village:  
  
15   Such lovers--though they take pain--  
16   It were pity they should obtain,  
  
17   For often times where they do sue  
18   They hinder lovers that would be true.  
  
19   For whoso loveth should love but once.  
20   Change whoso will, I will be none.

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