

The Poor Man's Petition (7 May 1603)

Transcript

British Library, Additional MS 22601, ff. 10v–11v

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[*Left margin:* 7 Maij. 1603] The poore mans Peticion to the Kinge.

1. Good Kinge let there be an vnifor:mity in true Religion without disturbance of Papist or Puritan
2. Good K[ing] let good Preachers be well prouided for, and without any bribery come to their liuinges.
3. Good K[ing] let poore Souldio[u]rs be payd their wages while they be employed and well prouided for, when they are maihmed./
4. Good K[ing] let there not be suche great deleys and craftie proceedinges in Lawe, and let Lawyers haue mode-rate fees. A pox take the proude Couetous Attorney and merciless Lawyer.
5. Good K[ing] let poore Suito[u]rs be hearde quickly, and with speede dispat--ched faouurable./
6. Good K[ing] let no man haue more offices then one, espetiallie in [th]e Court or touchinge the Lawes.

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7. Good K[ing] cutt of theis paltry licenses and all Monopolies: fye vpon a close bitinge Knauerie.
8. Good K[ing] suffer no great ordenance to be carried out of [th]e Realme to thy Enimies as it hath byn: A plague, vpon all couetous bitinge Treasoro[u]rs./
9. Good K[ing] let ordinarie Causes be determined in thy ordinarie Courts, and let not [th]e Chancerie be made a common shiftinge place to prolonge causes for priuate gaines.
10. Good K[ing] looke to thy Takers & officer{s} of thy house and to their exceedinge fees, that pull and gelde fro[m] thy princely allowau[n]ce./
11. Good K[ing] let not vs be oppressed w[i]th so many Impositions, powlinges and payments./
- 12 Remember thy Infants Court who in Warde do euer remaine w[i]th Ideots & Nediotes, so longe as they haue either wooll or lead: Their trees are not windshaken, and yet downe they are fallen: a Guifte for a Prince more

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fitt, then for Crookback who would haue all./

13 Looke to thy Exchequo[u]r where Subiects be all cheaked by Osborne and Fanshaw, thy Tellers & Audito[u]rs. Also whose Dames are not contented w[i]th M[ast]res but Ladilike do goe, wee dare not speake their treaso[u]r is so greate, but weale & lament, and vnder the burthen of Milles & Roper Offices do daylie groane./

14. Looke vnto thy houses Parkes & forrests. howe downe and bare they bee. And then what Courtier keeps them maye you easily see: /

15. Forgett not thy Marchants howe w[i]th Customes they be opprest. I meane not [th]e Vsurer what callinge so euer he be, Let him within thy Realme haue little rest. /

16 Good K[ing] let^{make} not lo[rd] of good Linc[oln] Duke of Shorditche for is a &c:

17 Good K[ing] make not Sr W.R. Erle of Pancridge for he is a &c.

Good Kinge loue vs & we will loue thee, and will spend o[u]r harts bloods for thee. /

Other manuscript witnesses

- All Souls College, MS 155, f. 5v
- British Library, Harley MS 3787, f. 181r
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 160, ff. 228/230r, 232r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 29607, f. 17r
- Hampshire Record Office, 44M69/L39/107
- Norfolk Record Office, AYL/186
- Somerset Archives, DD\BK/9/3/2c
- St John's College, MS K.56, item 3, ir
- St John's College, MS K.56, item 4, ir
- The National Archives, SP 14/1, /28A
- The National Archives, SP 14/1, /28B

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/PoorMansPetition1603v1.html>