

out of the power of fortune + etc is to come in
her hands than ours; she, in whose hands it
best knows whether it is best for you & me
I should be in Parliament or even in the war
Boswell's Life of Burke 2 v. p.

S P E E C H, &c.

Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen,

I Am extremely pleased at the appearance of this large and respectable meeting. The steps I may be obliged to take will want the sanction of a considerable authority; and in explaining any thing which may appear doubtful in my public conduct, I must naturally desire a very full audience.

I have been backward to begin my canvass. The dissolution of the Parliament was uncertain; and it did not become me, by an unseasonable importunity, to appear diffident of the effect of my six years endeavours to please you. I had served the city of Bristol honourably; and the city of Bristol had no reason to think, that the means of honourable service to the public, were become indifferent to me.

I found on my arrival here, that three gentlemen had been long in eager pursuit of an object which but two of us can obtain. I found, that they had all met with encouragement. A contested election in such a city as this, is no light thing. I paused on the brink of the precipice. These three gentlemen, by various merits,

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+ "Happy I man, happy he alone,
"He who can call today his own:
"He who, secure within, can say
"Tomorrow do thy worst for I have lived today.
"Be fair or foul or rain or shine,
"The day I have possessed in spite of fate is mine."

Dryden's Horace.
Act 2. 9. 36.