

against the wish of Sir David Hall, who had been left as captain of the town by the Duke of York. Somerset was induced to commit this act of weakness by the entreaties of his wife, who, with her children, had a narrow escape of being killed by a stone shot into the town. Sir David Hall remonstrated most strongly with Somerset, maintaining that without the permission of his lord and master, Richard Duke of York, the town could not be surrendered; but at last, according to Hall, (p. 215) "this captain perceiving, that neither his wordes served, nor his truth towarde his master prevailed, bid the duke of Somerset do what he list, for he would in no wise be named in y^e composition." Then the duke partly to please the towns men, but more desirous to please the duchess his wife, made an agreement with the French king, that he would restore the town, so that he and all his, might depart in safeguard with all their goods and substance: whiche offer, the French king gladly accepted and allowed, knowing that by force, he might longer have longed for the strong town, then to have possessed the same *à son seigneur*. After this conclusion taken, sir Thome Halle, with diverse other of his trustie frendes, departed to Chierburne, and from thence sailed into Irelande, to the duke of Yorke, making relation to hym of all these dooynages: whiche thing kyndeled so greute a rancore in his harte and stomacke that he neuer lette persecutyng of the Duke of Somersette, till he had brought hym to his fatal paynt, and extreme confusion." It may be observed that, judging by York's own conduct in this scene, he was quite as much to blame as Somerset for not going to Talbot's help. Both this scene and the following one show, on the part of the dramatist, no little ingenuity in setting forth so effectively the fatal results of the jealousies and quarrels between the various lords, from which resulted the disastrous and bloody civil war known as The Wars of the Roses.

199. Line 13: *louted*. Various meanings have been assigned to this word. Johnson in his note suggests that it may mean "lowered," "dishonoured." Stevens gives "subdued," "vanquished;" but from a passage in Ralph Roister Doister, iii. 3:

Where is a good gander, I dare say, may him beat
And where he is *louted* and laughed to scorn,
I or the veriest dolt that ever was born.

—Dowdley's Old Plays, vol. iii. p. 163;

as well as from two or three passages quoted from various authors, the word seems evidently to have the meaning assigned to it in our foot-note.

200. Line 51: *That ever living man of memory*.—Lettsom suggests that we should read:

That man of ever living memory.

But it is hardly worth while to disturb the order of the words, the meaning being: "That man who lives for ever in our memory." For a similar misplacement of epithets, see Richard II. note 233; also above, note 174.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

201. Line 13: *Whither, my lord!*—From *bought and sold* Lord Talbot. —F. 1 has *Whether*. Dyce reads *Whither*, following Pope. Surely the repetition of *Whither* is the

better reading and more like the original. There is no note of Interrogation after the sentence in the Folio. For *bought and sold* as a proverbial expression—"betrayed," see Comedy of Errors, note 67.

202. Line 16: *his weak legions*. —I have *regions*, corrected by Rowe.

203. Line 19: *And, in ADVANTAGE* Impering, looks for rescue. Staunton conjectures "*disadvantage*." Johnson's explanation is: "Protracting his resistance by the advantage of a strong post," and Malone adds: "Or, perhaps, endeavouring by every means that he can, with *advantage* to himself, to linger out the action" (Var. Ed. vol. xviii. p. 129). Dyce prints *disadvantage*, and in his note on this passage, vol. v. p. 90, quotes Lettsom: "Johnson's explanation of the old reading is against the course of events as described in this play." It certainly does not seem, from the detailed account which Hall gives of the circumstances preceding the engagement so fatal to Talbot, that he, at any time, held any position in which he awaited reinforcements; in fact he appears all throughout to have been, not the attacked, but the attacker. After he had retaken Bordenux, his son and other lords arrived from England with 2200 men and supplies; and Talbot immediately assumed the offensive. Charles had two armies in the field, one of which marched against Bordenux, while with part of the other he besieged the town of Châtillon in Périgord. Talbot immediately determined to attack the smaller of the two hostile armies first. He left the bulk of his forces, under the command of the Earl of Kendale, with directions to follow him as quickly as possible. Having taken one of the enemy's outposts, and routed a small body of 500 men, he attacked the French in a very strong intrenched position, in which they had more than 300 pieces of ordnance. Talbot appears to have had only 800 cavalry with him, whom he dismounted, himself remaining on horseback on account of his age. To attack so strong a position without waiting for his reinforcements was a very heroic feat, but, at the same time, a very serious strategic mistake; and for the fatal result he had no one but himself to blame.

204. Line 26: *Orletus the Bastard, Charles, and Bar gundy*.—So F. 2, F. 3, F. 4: F. 1 omits the *and*.

205. Line 31: *his levied horse*.—Ff. read (substantially) *lost*; which may be the right reading, as, above line 23, we have:

The levied succours that should lend him aid.

But it is much more probable that the author intended to write *horse*, in accordance with York's speech above, see 3, lines 9-11:

A plague upon that villain Somerset,
That thus delays my promised supply
Of *horsemens*, that were levied for this siege

and with Somerset's answer (line 33, below):

York lies; he might have sent and had the *horse*.

ACT IV. SCENE 5.

206. Line 29: *But, if I lose, they'll say it was for fear*.—If this, the reading of Ff. be right, *lose* must mean "yield," give way under pressure, as in Sonnet x. 3:

Join with the spite of fortune, make me *lean*.