

Henry V abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 3

Braggadocio

Situation: The French herald Montjoy returns to offer Henry V one last ransom opportunity, only to be confidently and thoroughly rebuked.

MONTJOY: Once more I come to know of thee, King Henry, if for thy ransom thou wilt now compound, before thy most assured overthrow.

HENRY: Who hath sent thee now?

MONTJOY: The Constable of France.

HENRY: I pray thee bear my former answer back. Bid them achieve me and then sell my bones. Good God, why should they mock poor fellows thus? The man that once did sell the lion's skin while the beast lived was killed with hunting him.

Henry V to Montjoy, No. 2

No doubt, many of our bodies shall find
English graves, with their honor ever lined
With this day's work. Those shall be famed who leave
Their hero bones in France, dying like men,
Leaving their earthly parts, whose lives we'll grieve,
To breed in your dunghills a death plague. Then
Our valiant English, being dead, shall cause
A second course of mischief. Ere this pause,
Time has worn us into slovenry, yet
Soon my poor soldiers will be in fresher
Robes, plucking your soldiers gay new coats. Let
Thee ask for no more ransom; save thy labor,
Or others' that the Constable appoints,
For the French shall have none but these my joints.

HENRY: Tell the Constable.

MONTJOY: I shall, King Harry. And so fare thee well. Thou never shalt hear herald anymore.