

Henry VIII abbreviated

Act 4, Scene 1

Observation

Situation: We learn from gentlemen on the street that Thomas Cromwell, Wolsey's servant, has been named secretary of the Privy Council and that "Katherine has been moved to Kymmilton, where she remains now sick." We also learn that the crown of Edward the Confessor, a saint and England's king from 1042 to 1066, was placed on Queen Anne's head.

FIRST GENTLEMAN: God save you, sir. Where have you been broiling?

THIRD GENTLEMAN: Among the crowd i' th' Abbey, where a finger could not be wedged in more. I am stifled with the mere rankness of their joy.

SECOND GENTLEMAN: You saw the ceremony?

THIRD GENTLEMAN: That I did.

FIRST GENTLEMAN: How was it?

SECOND GENTLEMAN: Good sir, speak it to us!

Third Gentleman to the other two Gentlemen

When the lords and ladies who brought the Queen
Withdrew, her Grace sat to rest and was seen
For some half an hour or so, directly
Facing the beauty of her person to
The people. Believe me, sirs, she is the
Most beautiful woman. If both of you
Had seen what the people saw; what she wore;
Heard the cheers; joy I've never seen before.
O, yes, the ceremony. At length she
Rose, came to the alter, kneeled and cast her
Fair eyes to heaven and prayed devoutly.
With the crown of Edward the Confessor
Laid on her, the choir sang not at all odd
The hymn that begins "We praise thee, O God."

THIRD GENTLEMAN: So she parted, and with the same full state paced back again to York Place, where the feast is held.

FIRST GENTLEMAN: Sir, you must no more call it "York Place;" that's past, for since the Cardinal fell, that title's lost. 'Tis now the King's and called "Whitehall."