1. “The Lord protect him from that kingly title!

Hath he set bounds between their love and me?

I am their mother. Who shall bar me from them?”

2. “Let me but meet you ladies one hour hence,

And I’ll salute your Grace of York as mother…

Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster,

There to be crowned Richard’s royal queen.”

3. “Death and destruction dogs thee at thy heels.

Thy mother’s name is ominous to children.”

4. “Give me thy hand. Thus high, by thy advice

And thy assistance is King Richard seated.

But shall we wear these glories for a day,

Or shall they last and we rejoice in them?”

5. “I wish the bastards dead,

And I would have it suddenly performed.

What sayst thou now?”

6. “And is it thus? Repays he my deep service

With such contempt? Made I him king for this?

O, let me think on Hastings and be gone

To Breaknock, while my fearful head is on!”

7. “The tyrannous and bloody act is done,

The most arch deed of piteous massacre

That ever yet this land was guilty of.”

8. “So now prosperity begins to mellow

And drop into the rotten mouth of death.

Here in these confines slyly have I lurked

To watch the waning of mine enemies.

A dire induction am I witness to,

And will to France, hoping the consequence

Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical.”

9. “From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept

A hellhound that doth hunt us all to death—

That dog, that had his teeth before his eyes,

To worry lambs and lap their gentle blood;

That excellent grand tyrant of the earth,

That reigns in galled eyes of weeping souls…”

10. “Bloody thou art; bloody will be thy end.

Shame serves thy life and doth thy death attend.”

11. “And must she die for this? O, let her live,

I’ll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty,

Slander myself as false to Edward’s bed,

Throw over her the veil of infamy.”

12. “…the Duke of Buckingham is taken.

That is the best news. That the Earl of Richmond

Is with a mighty power landed at Milford

Is colder tidings, yet they must be told.”