

The king and his companions; warily
 I stole into a neighbour thicket by,
 And over-heard, what you shall over-hear:
 That, by and by, disguis'd they will be here.
 Their herald is a pretty knavish page,
 That well by heart hath conn'd his embassy.
 Action, and accent, did they teach him there;
 Thus must thou speak, and thus thy body bear:
 And ever and anon they made a doubt,
 Presence majestic would put him out:
 For, quoth the king, an angel shalt thou see;
 Yet fear not thou, but speak audaciously.
 The boy reply'd, an angel is not evil;
 I should have fear'd her, had she been a devil.
 With that all laugh'd, and clap'd him on the shoulder,
 Making the bold wag by their praises bolder.
 One rubb'd his elbow thus; and fleer'd, and swore,
 A better speech was never spoke before.
 Another, with his finger and his thumb,
 Cry'd, *via!* we will do't, come what will come.
 The third he caper'd, and cry'd, all goes well:
 The fourth turn'd on the toe, and down he fell.
 With that they all did tumble on the ground,
 With such a zealous laughter, so profound,
 That in this spleen ridiculous appears,
 To check their folly with passion's solemn tears.

Prin. But what, but what, come they to visit us?

Boyet. They do, they do; and are apparel'd thus,
 Like *Muscovites*, or *Russians*, as I guess.
 Their purpose is to parley, court, and dance:
 And every one his love-feat will advance
 Unto his several mistress; which they'll know
 By favours several, which they did bestow.

Prin. And will they so? the gallants shall be task'd;
 For, ladies, we will every one be mask'd:

And