

Yea, with a splitting power, and made to tremble
 The region of my breast; which forc'd such way,
 That many maz'd considerings did throng
 And press'd in with this caution. First, methought,
 I stood not in the smile of heav'n, which had
 Commanded nature, that my lady's womb,
 If it conceiv'd a male child by me, should
 Do no more offices of life to't, than
 The grave does to the dead: for her male issue
 Or died where they were made, or shortly after
 This world had air'd them. Hence I took a thought,
 This was a judgment on me; that my kingdom,
 Well worthy the best heir o'th' world, should not
 Be glad in one by me: then follows, that
 I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in
 By this my issue's fail; and that gave to me
 Many a groaning throe. Thus hulling in
 The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer
 Towards this remedy, whereon we are
 Now present here together; that's to say,
 I meant to rectify my conscience, (which
 I then did feel full sick, and yet not well)
 By all the reverend fathers of the land,
 And doctors learn'd. — First, I began in private
 With you, my lord of *Lincoln*; you remember
 How under my oppression I did reel,
 When I first mov'd you.

Lin. Very well, my liege.

King. I have spoke long; be pleas'd yourself to say
 How far you satisfy'd me.

Lin. Please your highness,
 The question did at first so stagger me,
 Bearing a state of mighty moment in't,
 And consequence of dread, that I committed
 The daring'st counsel which I had, to doubt;

And