

London: A Poem,
in Imitation of the
Third Satire of Juvenal

By Samuel Johnson

*Transcription, correction, editorial commentary, and markup
by Staff and Research Assistants at The University of Virginia*

- [TP] -

LONDON;^{introduction}

A

POEM,

In IMITATION of the

THIRD SATIRE of *JUVENAL*

by Samuel Johnson

-----*Quis ineptæ*

Tam patiens Urbis, tam ferreus ut teneat se?^{juvenal} Juv.

LONDON:

Printed for R. Doddesley, at Tully's Head in Pall-Mall.

MDCCLXXXVIII.

LONDON:
A
POEM,
In IMITATION of the
THIRD SATIRE of JUVENAL

1 THO' Grief and Fondness in my Breast rebel,
2 When injur'd THALES , ^{thales} bids the Town farewell,
3 Yet still my calmer Thoughts his Choice commend,
4 I praise the Hermit, but regret the Friend,
5 Who now resolves, from Vice and LONDON far,
6 To breathe in distant Fields a purer Air,
7 And, fix'd on CAMBRIA'S, ^{cambria} solitary Shore,
8 Give to St DAVID , ^{david} one *true Briton* more.

- 4 -

9 For who would leave, unbrib'd, Hibernia's , ^{hibernia} Land,
10 Or change the Rocks of *Scotland* for the Strand, ^{thestrands?}
11 There none are swept by sudden Fate away,
12 But all whom Hunger spares, with Age decay:
13 Here Malice, Rapine, ^{rapine} , Accident, conspire,
14 And now a Rabble, ^{rabble} rages, now a Fire;
15 Their Ambush here relentless Ruffians lay,
16 And here the fell Attorney prowls for Prey;
17 Here falling Houses thunder on your Head,
18 And here a female Atheist talks you dead.

19 While THALES waits the Wherry, ^{wherry} that contains
20 Of dissipated Wealth the small Remains,
21 On Thames s, ^{thames} Banks, in silent Thought we stood,
22 Where GREENWICH smiles upon the silver Flood:
23 Struck with the Seat that gave ELIZA , ^{eliza} Birth,
24 We kneel, and kiss the consecrated, ^{consecrated} Earth;

- 5 -

25 In pleasing Dreams the blissful Age renew,
26 And call BRITANNIA'S Glories back to view;
27 Behold her Cross triumphant on the Main,

28 The Guard of Commerce, and the Dread of *Spain* ,
29 Ere Masquerades, ^{masquerade} debauch'd, Excise, ^{excise} oppress'd,
30 Or *English* Honour grew a standing Jest.

31 A transient Calm the happy Scenes bestow,
32 And for a Moment lull the Sense of Woe.
33 At length awaking, with contemptuous Frown,
34 Indignant THALES eyes the neighb'ring Town.

35 SINCE Worth, he cries, in these degen'rate Days,
36 Wants ev'n the cheap Reward of empty Praise;
37 In those curst Walls, devote to Vice and Gain,
38 Since unrewarded Science, ^{unrewardedscience} toils in vain;
39 Since Hope but soothes to double my Distress,
40 And ev'ry Moment leaves my Little less;

- 6 -

41 While yet my steady Steps no Staff sustains,
42 And Life still vig'rous revels in my Veins;
43 Grant me, kind Heaven, to find some happier Place,
44 Where Honesty and Sense are no Disgrace;
45 Some pleasing Bank where verdant Osiers, ^{osiers} play,
46 Some peaceful Vale, ^{vale} with Nature's Paintings gay;
47 Where once the harrass'd BRITON, ^{briton} found Repose,
48 And safe in Poverty defy'd his Foes;
49 Some secret Cell, ye Pow'rs, indulgent give.
50 Let ---- live here, for ---- has learn'd to live, ^{dashes} .
51 Here let those reign, whom Pensions can incite
52 To vote a *Patriot* black, a courtier white, ^{patriot};
53 Explain their Country's dear-bought Rights away,
54 And plead for Pirates in the Face of Day;
55 With slavish Tenets taint our poison'd Youth,
56 And lend a Lye the Confidence of Truth.

57 Let such raise Palaces, and Manors buy,
58 Collect a Tax, or farm a Lottery,

- 7 -

59 With warbling eunuchs, ^{eunuchs} fill our Licensed Stage, ^{license} ,
60 And lull to Servitude a thoughtless Age.

61 Heroes, proceed! What Bounds your Pride shall hold?
62 What Check restrain your Thirst of Pow'r and Gold?
63 Behold rebellious Virtue quite o'erthrown,
64 Behold our Fame, our Wealth, our Lives your own.

65 To such, a groaning Nation's Spoils are giv'n,
66 When publick Crimes inflame the Wrath of Heav'n:
67 But what, my Friend, what Hope remains for me,
68 Who start at Theft, and blush at Perjury?
69 Who scarce forbear, tho' BRITAIN'S Court he sing,
70 To pluck a titled Poet's, ^{poet} borrow'd Wing;
71 A Statesman's Logic unconvinc'd can hear,
72 And dare to slumber o'er the Gazetteer, ^{gazette} ;
73 Despise a Fool in half his Pension drest
74 And strive in vain to laugh at H---y 's, ^{henly} Jest.

75 Others with softer Smiles, and subtler Art,
76 Can sap the Principles, or taint the Heart;

- 8 -

77 With more Address a Lover's Note convey,
78 Or bribe a Virgin's Innocence away.
79 Well may they rise, while I, whose Rustic Tongue
80 Ne'er knew to puzzle Right, or varnish, ^{varnish} Wrong,
81 Spurn'd as a Begger, dreaded as a Spy,
82 Live unregarded, unlamented die.

83 For what but social Guilt the Friend endears?
84 Who shares Orgilio's , ^{orgilio} Crimes, his Fortune shares.
85 But thou, should tempting Villainy present
86 All Marlborough , ^{marlborough} hoarded, or all Villiers , ^{villiers} spent,
87 Turn from the glitt'ring Bribe thy scornful Eye,
88 Nor fell for Gold, what Gold could never buy,
89 The peaceful Slumber, self-approving Day,
90 Unsullied Fame, and Conscience ever gay.

91 The cheated Nation's happy Fav'rites see!
92 Mark whom the Great caress, who frown on me!

- 9 -

93 LONDON! the needy Villain's gen'ral Home,
94 The Common Shore, ^{sewer} of *Paris* and of *Rome* ;
95 With eager Thirst, by Folly or by Fate,
96 Sucks in the Dregs of each corrupted State.
97 Forgive my transports, ^{transport} on a Theme like this,
98 I cannot bear a *French* Metropolis.

99 Illustrious EDWARD! from the Realms of Day,
100 The Land of Heroes and of Saints survey;
101 Nor hope the *British* Lineaments, ^{lineament} to trace,

102 The rustic Grandeur, or the surly Grace,
103 But lost in thoughtless Ease, and empty Show,
104 Behold the Warriour dwindled to a Beau;
105 Sense, Freedom, Piety, refin'd away,
106 Of FRANCE the Mimic, and of SPAIN the Prey;

107 All that at home no more can beg or steal,
108 Or like a Gibbet, ^{gibbet} better than a Wheel, ^{wheel};
109 Hiss'd from the Stage, or hooted from the Court,
110 Their Air, their Dress, their Politicks import;

- 10 -

111 Obsequious, ^{obsequious}, artful, Voluble, ^{voluble} and gay,
112 On *Britain* 's fond Credulity, ^{credulity} they prey.
113 No gainful Trade their Industry can 'scape,
114 They sing, they dance, clean Shoes, or cure a Clap;
115 All Sciences a fasting Monsieur knows,
116 And bid him go to Hell, to Hell he goes,

117 Ah! what avails it, that, from Slav'ry far,
118 I drew the Breath of Life in *English* Air;
119 Was early taught a *Briton* 's Right to prize,
120 And lisp the Tale of HENRY'S , ^{henry} Victories;
121 If the gull'd, ^{gulled} conqueror receives the Chain,
122 And what their Armies lost, their Cringes gain?

123 Studious to please, and ready to submit,
124 The supple Gaul , ^{gaul} was born a Parasite:
125 Still to his Int'rest true, where'er he goes,
126 Wit, Brav'ry, Worth, his lavish Tongue bestows;

- 11 -

127 In ev'ry Face a Thousand Graces shine,
128 From ev'ry Tongue flows Harmony divine.
129 These arts in vain our rugged Natives try,
130 Strain out with fault'ring Diffidence a Lye,
131 And gain a Kick for awkward Flattery.

132 Besides, with Justice, this discerning Age
133 Admires their wond'rous Talents for the Stage:
134 Well may they venture on the Mimic's Art,
135 Who play from Morn to Night a borrow'd Part;
136 Practis'd their Master's Notions to embrace,
137 Repeat his Maxims, and reflect his Face;
138 With ev'ry wild Absurdity comply,

139 And view each Object with another's Eye;
140 To shake with Laughter ere the Jest they hear,
141 To pour at Will the counterfeited Tear;
142 And as their Patron hints the Cold or Heat,
143 To shake in Dog-days, in *December* sweat.

- 12 -

144 How, when Competitors like these contend,
145 Can surly Virtue hope to fix a Friend?
146 Slaves that with serious Impudence, ⁿ⁰⁵⁴ beguile, ⁿ⁰⁵⁵,
147 And lye without a Blush, without a Smile;
148 Exalt each Trifle, ev'ry Vice adore,
149 Your Taste in Snuff, your Judgment in a Whore;
150 Can *Balbo* 's, ^{balbo} Eloquence applaud, and swear
151 He gropes his Breeches with a Monarch's Air.

152 For Arts like these preferr'd, admir'd, carest,
153 They first invade your Table, then your Breast;
154 Explore your Secrets with insidious Art,
155 Watch the weak Hour, and ransack all the Heart;
156 Then soon your ill-plac'd Confidence repay,
157 Commence your Lords, and govern or betray.
158 By Numbers here from Shame or Censure free,
159 All Crimes are safe, but hated Poverty.

- 13 -

160 This, only this, the rigid Law persues,
161 This, only this, provokes the snarling Muse;
162 The sober Trader at a tatter'd Cloak,
163 Wakes from his Dream, and labours for a Joke;
164 With brisker Air the silken Courtiers gaze,
165 And turn the varied Taunt a thousand Ways.
166 Of all the Grievs that harrass the Distrest,
167 Sure the most bitter is a scornful Jest;
168 Fate never wounds more deep the gen'rous Heart,
169 Than when a Blockhead's Insult points the Dart.

170 Has Heaven reserv'd, in Pity to the Poor,
171 No pathless Waste, or undiscover'd Shore?
172 No secret Island in the boundless Main?
173 No peaceful Desart yet unclaim'd by SPAIN?
174 Quick let us rise, the happy Seats explore,
175 And bear Oppression's Insolence no more.

- 14 -

176 This mournful Truth is ev'ry where confest,
177 SLOW RISES WORTH, BY POVERTY DEPREST:
178 But here more slow, where all are Slaves to Gold,
179 Where Looks are Merchandise, and Smiles are sold,
180 Where won by Bribes, by Flatteries implor'd,
181 The Groom retails the Favours of his Lord.

182 But hark! th' affrighted Crowd's tumultuous Cries
183 Roll thro' the Streets, and thunder to the Skies;
184 Rais'd from some pleasing Dream of Wealth and Pow'r,
185 Some pompous Palace, or some blissful Bow'r, ^{bower},
186 Aghast you start, and scarce with aking, ^{aking} Sight,
187 Sustain th' approaching Fire's tremendous Light;
188 Swift from pursuing Horrors take your Way,
189 And Leave your little ALL to Flames a Prey;
190 Then thro' the World a wretched Vagrant roam,
191 For where can starving Merit find a Home?

- 15 -

192 In vain your mournful Narrative disclose,
193 While all neglect, and most insult your Woes.

194 Should Heaven's just Bolts *Orgilio*'s Wealth confound,
195 And spread his flaming Palace on the Ground,
196 Swift o'er the Land the dismal Rumour flies,
197 And publick Mournings pacify the Skies;
198 The Laureat, ^{laureate} Tribe in servile Verse relate,
199 How Virtue wars with persecuting Fate;
200 With well-feign'd Gratitude the pension'd Band
201 Refund the Plunder of the begger'd Land.
202 See! while he builds, the gaudy Vassals, ^{vassal} come,
203 And crowd with sudden Wealth the rising Dome;
204 The Price of Boroughs and of Souls restore,
205 And raise his Treasures higher than before.
206 Now bless'd with all the Baubles of the Great,
207 The polish'd Marble, and the shining Plate,

- 16 -

208 *Orgilio* sees the golden Pile aspire,
209 And hopes from angry Heav'n another Fire.

210 Could'st thou resign the Park and Play content,
211 For the fair Banks Severn of or Trent, ⁿ⁰³⁶;
212 There might'st thou find some elegant Retreat,
213 Some hireling Senator's, ⁿ⁰³⁷ deserted Seat;

214 And stretch thy Prospects o'er the smiling Land,
215 For less than rent the Dungeons of the *Strand* ;
216 There prune thy Walks, support thy drooping Flow'rs,
217 Direct thy Rivulets, and twine thy bowers;
218 And, while thy Beds a cheap Repast, ^{repast} afford,
219 Despite the Dainties of a venal, ^{venal} Lord:
220 There ev'ry Bush with Nature's Music rings,
221 There ev'ry Breeze bears Health upon its Wings;
222 On all thy Hours Security shall smile,
223 And bless thine Evening Walk and Morning Toil.

- 17 -

224 Prepare for Death, if here at Night you roam,
225 And sign your Will before you sup from Home.
226 Some fiery Fop, ^{fop}, with new Commission vain,
227 Who sleeps on Brambles, ^{bramble} till he kills his Man;
228 Some frolick Drunkard, reeling from a Feast,
229 Provokes a Broil, and stabs you for a Jest.
230 Yet ev'n these Heroes, mischievously gay,
231 Lords of the Street, and Terrors of the Way;
232 Flush'd as they are with Folly, Youth and Wine,
233 Their prudent Insults to the Poor confine;
234 Afar they mark the Flambeaus, ^{flambeau} bright Approach,
235 And shun the shining Train, and golden Coach.

236 In vain, these Dangers past, your Doors you close,
237 And hope the Balmy Blessings of Repose, ^{repose}:

- 18 -

238 Cruel with Guilt, and daring with Despair,
239 The midnight Murd'rer bursts the faithless Bar;
240 Invades the sacred Hour of silent Rest,
241 And plants, unseen, a Dagger in your Breast.

242 Scarce can our Fields, such Crowds at Tyburn , ^{tyburn} die,
243 With Hemp the Gallows and the Fleet supply.
244 Propose your Schemes, ye Senatorian Band,
245 Whose *Ways and Means* support the sinking Land;
246 Lest Ropes be wanting in the tempting Spring,
247 To rig another Convoy for the K---g.

248 A single Jail, in ALFRED'S , ^{alfred} golden Reign,
249 Could half the Nation's Criminals contain;
250 Fair Justice then, without Constraint ador'd,
251 Sustain'd the Ballance, but resign'd the Sword;

252 No Spies were paid, no *Special Juries* known,
253 Blest Age ! But ah ! how diff'rent from our own !

- 19 -

254 Much could I add, ---- but see the Boat at hand,
255 The Tide retiring, calls me from the Land:
256 Farewel ! ----- When Youth, and Health, and Fortune spent,
257 Thou fly'st for Refuge to the Wilds of *Kent* , ^{kent};
258 And tir'd like me with Follies and with Crimes,
259 In angry Numbers warn'st succeeding Times;
260 Then shall thy Friend, nor thou refuse his Aid,
261 Still Foe to Vice forsake his *Cambrian* , ^{cambrian} Shade;
262 In Virtue's Cause once more exert his Rage,
263 Thy Satire point, and animate thy Page.

FINIS .

Footnotes

- n054 Shameless, immodest. Source: Oxford English Dictionary
- [UVAstudstaff]
- n055 To deceive or cheat. Source: Oxford English Dictionary
- [UVAstudstaff]
- n037 Members of Parliament who had been paid off to vote the government line.
- [UVAstudstaff]

introduction
London, published in 1738, represents Johnson's attempt to satirize the grubby world of London and also to rise above it. The poem is an "imitation" of the third Satire of the Roman poet Juvenal, which probably dates to the first century. In this poem, Juvenal imagines a friend of the poet, named Umbricius, who is sick and tired of the city of Rome and is leaving for the countryside for good. In doing what was called an "imitation" of his classical source, Johnson is not simply *translating* Juvenal's poem, but *updating* it, finding modern correlations to the Latin original. Here, London stands in for Rome, "Thales" stands in for Juvenal's friend Umbricius, and the Tuscan countryside to which Umbricius was headed becomes Wales. Exhausted by the filth, crowds, noise of London, and the difficulty of making a living as a writer, Thales (believed by some scholars to refer to [Richard Savage](#), another hack writer who had become a friend of Johnson's) in some ways expresses Johnson's own frustrations. But *London* itself, published in a handsome folio edition, written in the heroic couplet form that to readers of the 1730s identified the high style of serious poetry, using the form of the imitation to signify its neoclassical aspirations, and hyped in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* (which published ads for the poem, and also excerpted it), is clearly an attempt to Johnson to get out of hackdom as soon as possible, to become a poet like [Alexander Pope](#), making a good living independent of the whims and tight fists of the booksellers and magazine editors.

The poem also positioned itself as part of the growing opposition to the government of [Sir Robert Walpole](#), who had dominated British politics since taking over as the de facto Prime Minister (there was no such official position yet) in 1721.

Walpole successfully suppressed dissent through a mixture of brutality, bribery, and control of the print media. By the late 1730s, however, attacks on his regime were becoming more open and frequent, prompting new attempts on the part of his government to suppress dissenting voices. In particular, the Stage Licensing Act of 1737 called for theater managers to submit all plays for government approval in advance of performance. Prompted in part by satires against the regime like John Gay's *The Beggars Opera* (1728) and the satirical afterpieces by Henry Fielding that had been very popular in the mid-1730s, the Stage Licensing Act had a chilling effect on the theater. In particular, the passage of the Act thwarted Johnson's attempt to become a playwright himself. Johnson had arrived in London just that year with a half-finished tragedy in his luggage, a play called *Irene* that he probably imagined as a vehicle by which he could make a lot of money and gain status as an author. But in the aftermath of the [Stage Licensing Act](#), theater managers became extremely cautious about new plays in general, and *Irene* was not staged until 1749. By using Juvenal's Third Satire as a point of departure, *London* manages to critique the

Walpole regime indirectly and through coded references, but contemporary readers, particularly those in sympathy with the opposition, were readily able to see how the poem mocked Walpole's reign as corrupt.

Probably because of its political stance, *London* seems to have sold reasonably well, and Alexander Pope, the most famous poet of the period (and a sympathizer with opposition politics), praised it. But as a vehicle for establishing Johnson's reputation as a significant poet who could make a living off his art it was a dead end. Johnson had to continue to grind out work for hire for another decade and a half. It was not until he achieved fame in the 1750s, first as the author of a *Spectator*-like series of journalistic essays called *The Rambler* and then as the editor of the *Dictionary of the English Language*, which made him a kind of national treasure, since he had single-handedly accomplished for English what it had taken large teams of scholars to do for other European languages. Here, let's read Johnson as eighteenth-century Grub Street's finest product--and its most perceptive critic.

juvenal "Who can endure this terrible city? Who is so iron-willed that he can bear it?"

thales The character of Thales has often been seen to have been inspired by the author [Richard Savage](#), a friend of Samuel Johnson. Richard Savage, like Thales here, left London in an attempt to live in Wales. In 1744, after the death of Savage, Johnson published his *Life of Richard Savage*, a full-scale biography.

- [UVAstudstaff]

cambria Wales. Savage did go to Wales, where he died in debtor's prison.

- [UVAstudstaff]

david The Patron saint of Wales.

- [UVAstudstaff]

hibernia The Latin name for Ireland.

- [UVAstudstaff]

thestrاندThe main thoroughfare of London, connecting the City of London with Westminster.

- [UVAstudstaff]

rapine Plunder or pillage. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

rabble An unruly, disorganized crowd or mob. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

wherry A light rowing boat used mainly on rivers. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

thames The second longest river in Britain, which flows through central London.

- [UVAstudstaff]

eliza Queen Elizabeth I was born at Greenwich Palace.

- [UVAstudstaff]

consecrated Sacred, hallowed, or sanctified. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

masquerade Masquerade balls were enormously popular in London in this period. People dressed up in costume in order to conceal their identities; critics denounced masquerades as hot-beds of sexual intrigue and immoral behavior.

- [UVAstudstaff]

excise Any toll or tax. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [AJB]

unrewarded Unacknowledged intellectual pursuits.

- [UVAstudstaff]

osiers Any of several willows with tough pliant branches used in basketwork. It can also be a flexible branch of any of these willows. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

vale A more or less extensive tract of land lying between two ranges of hills, or stretches of high ground, and usually traversed by a river or stream; a dale or valley, esp. one which is comparatively wide and flat. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

briton A member of one of the Brittonic-speaking (Welsh, Cornish) peoples. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

dashes Readers were invited to fill in the blanks here with people who it might be dangerous to name directly; perhaps even the name 'George,' that of the king.

- [UVAstudstaff]

patriot "Patriots" were those who opposed the Walpole government and "Courtiers" were those who supported his policies.

- [UVAstudstaff]

eunuchs Castrati singers; male singers who had been castrated as children to preserve the high register of their voices, these singers had become extremely popular to opera goers.

- [UVAstudstaff]

license [The Stage Licensing Act](#) had been passed in 1737; it required theatres to submit plays to the government for approval in advance of their performance, and effectively censored the London stage.

- [UVAstudstaff]

poet Johnson is implicitly attacking Poet Laureate [Colley Cibber](#). Cibber was a mediocre poet and playwright but he was primarily given the title because he supported Walpole and the Whig Party. The borrowed wing part may be an accusation of plagiarism.

- [UVAstudstaff]

gazette The *Gazette* was the official newspaper used by the Walpole government to influence public opinion, and, therefore, here labeled a total bore.

- [UVAstudstaff]

henly Probably referring to [John Henly](#), known as *Orator Henly*, a well-known London preacher who had become famous more for his showmanship than his religious doctrine; he drew big crowds but was also considered to be something of a buffoon, and was also known to be a Walpole supporter.

- [UVAstudstaff]

varnish To cover, gloss over, or disguise. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

- orgilio The poet may not be referring to a particular person, but since *orgueil* means *pride* in French, imagining a prideful person in general.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- marlborough **John Churchill**, the Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), was a war hero for his successes in the War of the Spanish Succession at the turn of the eighteenth century; he was also widely believed to have been an enormous war profiteer, making a fortune from contracts to supply the troops.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- villiers **George Villiers**, the second Duke of Buckingham, (1628-87) was a notorious rake and spendthrift.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- sewer Sewer. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- transport Here referring to the sense of *transport* as a state of excitation, excess.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- lineamen Line or outline. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- gibbet Originally synonymous with gallows, but has later been used to mean an upright post with projecting arm from which the bodies of criminals were hung in chains or irons after execution. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- wheel An instrument of torture and punishment. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- obsequious Compliant with the will or wishes of another. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- voluble Liable to change; inconstant, variable, mutable. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]

credulity Readiness to believe. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

henry Probably a reference to [Henry V](#), who was famous for his military success in the Hundred Years War with France.

- [UVAstudstaff]

gulled Duped, deceived, befooled. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

gaul Frenchman. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

balbo Balbo is Latin for one who stammers, so, such a person's eloquence here is an oxymoron.

- [UVAstudstaff]

bower A cottage, often used as a romanticized abode in poetry. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

aking An archaic spelling of aching.

- [UVAstudstaff]

laureate The poets laureate; since this was an official position, such poets, like Cibber, did not deviate far from the government's official line.

- [UVAstudstaff]

vassal Part of the feudal system, vassals are the ones who own land, and thus control the workers of the land. Normally they're portrayed in a negative, arrogant manner. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.

- [UVAstudstaff]

n036 The River Severn is in Wales; the Trent river is a major river in England. Both are far from London.

- [UVAstudstaff]

- repast Refreshments or rest. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- venal Corrupt. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- fop One who is overtly concerned about their appearance and other people's perceptions of them. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- bramble Prickly Shrubs. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- flambeauTorches. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- repose A break or rest. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- tyburn **Tyburn**, roughly at the site of Marble Arch today was the location of the gallows at which criminals were hanged. Often such executions drew large crowds.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- alfred **Alfred** was King of Wessex from 871 to 899. He successfully defended his kingdom against the Viking attempt at conquest, and by the time of his death had become the dominant ruler in England. He is the only English monarch to be accorded the epithet *the Great* . His reputation has been that of a learned and merciful man who encouraged education and improved his the legal system and military structure of his kingdom.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- kent A country in southeastern England.
- [UVAstudstaff]
- cambrianWelsh. Source: Oxford English Dictionary.
- [UVAstudstaff]