Pastime with Good Company, The King's Ballad

Henry VIII











Pastime with good company I love and shall unto I die; Grudge who list, but none deny, So God be pleased thus live will I. For my pastance Hunt, song, and dance. My heart is set: All goodly sport For my comfort, Who shall me let? Youth must have some dalliance, Of good or illé some pastance; Company methinks then best All thoughts and fancies to dejest: For idleness Is chief mistress Of vices all. Then who can say

Company with honesty Is virtue vices to flee: Company is good and ill But every man hath his free will. The best ensue, The worst eschew, My mind shall be: Virtue to use, Vice to refuse, Shall I use me.

But mirth and play Is best of all?