
SUMMARY: In 1597, Richard Field published Henry Lok's *Ecclesiastes, Otherwise called The Preacher . . . whereunto are annexed sundry sonnets of Christian passions*. The first two hundred of the latter had been printed earlier by Richard Field in 1593 under the title *Sundry Christian passions contained in two hundred sonnets*. The 1597 edition also includes a number of additional sonnets to Elizabethan personages, comprising sonnets to each of the Lords of the Privy Council and to various 'other lords, ladies and approved friends'. Below is Lok's sonnet to Oxford, which praises the excellence of Oxford's lineage, mind, and body. In the Huntington Library copy, the first line has been altered by hand to read 'If Endor's widow had had power to raise'.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England

If Endor's widowhood had power to raise
A perfect body of true temperature,
I would conjure you by your wonted praise
Awhile my song to hear, and truth endure.
Your passed noble proof doth well assure
Your blood's, your mind's, your body's excellence;
If their due reverence may this pains procure,
Your patience (with my boldness) will dispense.
I only crave high wisdom's true defence,
Not at my suit, but for work's proper sake,
Which treats of true felicity's essence,
As wisest king most happiest proof did make,
Whereof your own experience much might say
Would you vouchsafe your knowledge to bewray.