
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's eldest daughter Elizabeth Vere, Countess of Derby.

To the Right Honourable the Countess of Derby

When this my bold attempt to mind I call,
Who, Phaeton-like, would Phoebus' chariot guide,
From doubtful thoughts into despair I fall,
How such clear light my weak sight may abide.
From one presumption unto more I slide,
And give the rein so much to rash desire
That I make public what I ought to hide,
And seek my sanctuary in that heavenly fire
Whose image of perfection I admire
In our rare goddess, wisdom's clearest light,
Whose great aspect my many wants require
To cleanse the clouds which blind my judgment's sight;
And such fair stars as you (who influence have
Of her bright beams) to give some light I crave.