

2 Henry VI - William Shakespeare
Act IV, Scene ii: lines 59-102

- Cade: Be brave, then; for your captain is brave, and vows reformation. There shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny: the three-hooped pot; shall have ten hoops and I will make it felony to drink small beer: all the realm shall be in common; and in Cheapside shall my palfrey go to grass: and when I am king, as king I will be,--
- All: God save your majesty!
- Cade: I thank you, good people: there shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my score; and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may agree like brothers and worship me their lord.
- Dick: The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.
- Cade: Nay, that I mean to do. Is not this a lamentable thing, that of the skin of an innocent lamb should be made parchment? That parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo a man? Some say the bee stings: but I say, 'tis the bee's wax; for I did but seal once to a thing, and I was never mine own man since. How now! Who's there?
[enter some, bringing forward the Clerk of Chatham]
- Smith: The clerk of Chatham: he can write and read and cast accompt.
- Cade: O monstrous!
- Smith: We took him setting of boys' copies.
- Cade: Here's a villain!
- Smith: Has a book in his pocket with red letters in't.
- Cade: Nay, then, he is a conjurer.
- Dick: Nay, he can make obligations, and write court-hand.
- Cade: I am sorry for't: the man is a proper man, of mine honour; unless I find him guilty, he shall not die. Come hither, sirrah, I must examine thee: what is thy name?
- Clerk: Emmanuel.
- Dick: They use to write it on the top of letters: 'twill go hard with you.
- Cade: Let me alone. Dost thou use to write thy name? Or has thou a mark to thyself, like an honest plain-dealing man?
- Clerk: Sir, I thank God, I have been so well brought up that I can write my name.
- All: He hath confessed: away with him! He's a villain and a traitor.
- Cade: Away with him, I say! Hang him with his pen and ink-horn about his neck.