

Middleton's speaker argues that Hugh Myddelton's example may give 'Courage to some that may hereafter live | To practise deeds of goodness and of fame, | And cheerfully light their actions by his name' (60-2). But not only does this example offer courage to future virtuous action; it also instructs and informs the poet's view of himself. Middleton admires this Sir Hugh who has survived the onslaughts of 'malice, calumnies, and slanders'. Middleton would write in the Epistle Dedicatory of *The Triumphs of Truth* that he himself had suffered 'oppositions of malice, ignorance, and envy'. The poet therefore forges a link between himself and the successful Hugh Myddelton,

just as he would closely identify himself with the mayor Thomas Myddelton in the other pageant text in the 1613 book. The writer hopes that his 'invention' will participate in the perfection of the New River, as he also in his self-fashioning identifies with political and financial leaders who have overcome adversity.

SEE ALSO

Textual introduction and apparatus: *Companion*, 629

Authorship and date: *Companion*, 375

General introduction to the civic entertainments: this volume, 968

## The Manner of his Lordship's Entertainment

The manner of his Lordship's Entertainment on Michaelmas day last, being the day of his honourable election, together with the worthy Sir John Swinnerton, Knight, then Lord Mayor, the learned and judicious, Sir Henry Montagu, Master Recorder, and many of the right worshipful the Aldermen of the City of London.

At that most famous and admired work of the running stream from Amwell Head, into the cistern near Islington, being the sole invention, cost, and industry of that worthy Master Hugh Myddelton of London, Goldsmith, for the general good of the city.

Perfection, which is the crown of all inventions, swelling now high with happy welcomes to all the glad well-wishers of her admired maturity, the father and master of this famous work, expressing thereby both his thankfulness to heaven and his zeal to the City of London, in true joy of heart to see his time, travails, and expenses so successively greeted, thus gives entertainment to that honourable assembly.

At their first appearing, the warlike music of drums and trumpets liberally beats the air, sounds as proper as in battle, for there is no labour that man undertakes but hath a war within itself, and perfection makes the conquest; and no few or mean onsets of malice, calumnies, and slanders, hath this resolved gentleman borne off, before his labours were invested with victory, as in this following

speech to those honourable auditors then placed upon the mount is more at large related.

A troop of labourers, to the number of threescore or upwards, all in green caps alike, bearing in their hands the symbols of their several employments in so great a business, with drums before them, marching twice or thrice about the cistern, orderly present themselves before the mount, and after their obeisance:

THE SPEECH

Long have we laboured, long desired and prayed  
For this great work's perfection, and by th'aid  
Of heaven and good men's wishes 'tis at length  
Happily conquered by cost, art, and strength.  
And after five years' dear expense in days,  
Travail, and pains, besides the infinite ways  
Of malice, envy, false suggestions,  
Able to daunt the spirits of mighty ones  
In wealth and courage, this, a work so rare,  
Only by one man's industry, cost, and care  
Is brought to blest effect, so much withstood,  
His only aim the city's general good;  
And where before many unjust complaints,  
Enviously seated, hath oft caused restraints,  
Stops, and great crosses, to our master's charge  
And the work's hindrance; favour now at large  
Spreads itself open to him, and commends  
To admiration both his pains and ends,

2 Michaelmas day feast of St Michael, 29 September

3 John Swinnerton Merchant Taylor, elected mayor in 1612, honoured by Thomas Dekker's Lord Mayor's pageant, *Troia-Nova Triumphans*

5 Henry Montagu Recorder of the City of London, elected in May 1603; spoke in

*Magnificent Entertainment* (ll. 1603-18); became Chief Justice of the King's Bench

8 Amwell Head Amwell springs located in Hertfordshire

9 Islington in the 17th century a country village on the northern edge of London; now part of London

invention Middleton typically implies

both the action of inventing and the thing invented, the product

10 Hugh Myddelton (1560-1631); Goldsmith, brother of the mayor Thomas Myddelton; Member of Parliament several times for Denbigh

25 resolved gentleman Hugh Myddelton

The manner of his Lordships Entertainment

The king's most gracious love: perfection draws  
Favour from princes, and from all applause.  
55 Then, worthy magistrates, to whose content,  
Next to the state, all this great care was bent,  
And for the public good, which grace requires,  
Your loves and furtherance chiefly he desires,  
To cherish these proceedings, which may give  
60 Courage to some that may hereafter live  
To practise deeds of goodness and of fame,  
And cheerfully light their actions by his name.  
Clerk of the work, reach me the book to show  
How many arts from such a labour flow.

65 These lines following are read in the clerk's book:

First, here's the overseer, this tried man  
An ancient soldier and an artisan;  
The clerk; next him mathematician;  
The master of the timber-work takes place  
70 Next after these; the measurer in like case;

Bricklayer and engineer; and after those  
The borer and the pavior; then it shows  
The labourers next; keeper of Amwell-head;  
The walkers last: so all their names are read;  
Yet these but parcels of six hundred more  
That at one time have been employed before;  
Yet these in sight and all the rest will say,  
That every week they had their royal pay.

The speech goes on.

Now for the fruits then: flow forth precious spring,  
So long and dearly sought for, and now bring  
Comfort to all that love thee; loudly sing,  
And with thy crystal murmurs struck together,  
Bid all thy true well-wishers welcome hither.

At which words the flood-gate opens, the stream let in  
into the cistern, drums and trumpets giving it triumphant  
85 welcomes; and, for the close of this their honourable  
entertainment, a peal of chambers.

FINIS.

53 king's King James I

67 ancient soldier standard bearer; also,  
experienced, venerable soldier

70 measurer one who takes measurements

72 borer one who bores, drills

pavior one who lays pavement

74 walkers an officer of the New River  
company who has charge of a 'walk' or  
section of the bank (OED)

78 royal pay refers to the monetary support

of King James, who helped pay for the  
project

88 peal of chambers small piece of ordnance  
used to fire salutes

Hugh Myddleton  
Goldsmith