

What pleasure have great princes

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Psalmes, sonets and songs of sadnes and pietie (Thomas East press, London, 1588)

The first singing part

Superius

Medius

Contratenor

Tenor

Bassus

What plea-sure have great prin - ces, have great prin - ces, what plea - sure have great

What plea-sure have great prin - ces, have great prin - ces, what plea -

What plea-sure have great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their

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What plea-sure have great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their__
 Their deal-ings plain and right - ful, are void of all de - -
 All day their flocks each tend - eth, at night they take their__
 For Law-yers and their plead - ing, they 'steem it not a__
 O hap - py who thus liv - eth, not car - ing much for__

prin - ces, what plea-sure have great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their choice, than

prin - ces, great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their choice, to

sure have great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their

choice, what plea - sure have great prin - ces, more dain - ty to their choice, to their choice, more

choice, than herd-men wild, who care - less,
 ceit: they ne - ver know how spite - ful,
 rest, more qui - et than who send - eth
 straw, they think that hon - est mean - ing
 gold, with cloth - ing which suf - fi - ceth,

herd - men wild, who care - less, in qui - et life re - joyce, re - joyce, in

their choice, than herd - men wild, who care-less, care - less, in qui - et life

choice, to their choice, than herd - men wild, who

dain - ty to their choice, than herd-men wild, who care - less, in qui - et life re-joyce, in

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in quiet life re-joyce, and for-tunes and for-tunes;
 it is to kneel and wait on fa-vo-
 his ship in-to the East, where gold and
 is of it-self a law, where con-science
 too keep him from the cold, though poor and

qui-et life re-joyce, in quiet life re-joyce, and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, not
 re-joyce, re-joyce, and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, and for-tunes fate not
 care-less in quiet life re-joyce, and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, not fear-

qui-et life, in quiet life re-joyce, and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, and for-tunes fate not

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fate not fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing;
 rite pre-sump-tuous, whose pride is vain and sump-tuous;
 pearl are plen-ty, but get-ting ve-ry dain-ty;
 judg-eth plain-ly, they spend no mo-ney vain-ly;
 plain his di-et, yet mer-ry 'tis and qui-et;

fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing; and for-tunes fate not
 fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing, in Sum-mer morn-ing; and for-tunes fate not fear-ing,
 -ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing; and for-tunes fate not
 fear-ing, sing sweet, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing; Sum-mer morn-ing; and for-tunes fate not

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and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing.
 on fa-vo-rite pre-sump-tuous, whose pride is vain and sump-tuous.
 where gold and pearl but get-ting ve-ry dain-ty.
 where con-science judg-eth plain-ly, they spend no mo-ney vain-ly.
 though poor and plain his di-et, yet mer-ry 'tis and qui-et.

fear-ing, not fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing;
 and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing, in Sum-mer morn-ing.
 fear-ing, not fear-ing, sing sweet, in Sum-mer, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing.
 fear-ing, and for-tunes fate not fear-ing, sing sweet, sing sweet, in Sum-mer morn-ing; Sum-mer morn-ing.

What pleasure have great princes,
more dainty to their choice,
than herdmen wild, who careless,
in quiet life rejoyce,
and fortunes fate not fearing,
sing sweet, in Summer morning.

Their dealings plain and rightful,
are void of all deceit:
they never know how spiteful,
it is to kneel and wait
on favorite presumptuous,
whose pride is vain and sumptuous.

All day their flocks each tendeth,
at night they take their rest,
more quiet than who sendeth
his ship into the East,
where gold and pearl are plenty,
but getting very dainty.

For Lawyers and their pleading,
they'steem it not a straw,
they think that honest meaning
is of itself a law,
where conscience judgeth plainly,
they spend no money vainly.

O happy who thus liveth,
not caring much for gold,
with clothing which sufficeth,
too keep him from the cold,
though poor and plain his diet,
yet merry it is and quiet.