

1652

TO SR HENRY VANE THE YOUNGER

John Milton

Milton, John (1608-1674) - English poet and prose writer who is one of the most highly regarded figures in world literature and is widely considered the greatest poet since Shakespeare. Often called the "Puritan Poet," he had many of the good traits of the Puritans as well as many of the bad and spent much of his life immersed in political and religious controversy. To Sr Henry Vane the younger (1652) - One of Milton's minor poems. It is a companion piece to "Lord General Cromwell."

TO SR HENRY VANE THE YOUNGER

Vane, young in yeares, but in sage counsell old,
 Then whome a better Senatour nere held
 The helme of Rome, when gownes not armes repelld
 The feirce Epeirot & the African bold,
 Whether to settle peace, or to unfold
 The drift of hollow states, hard to be spelld,
 Then to advise how warr may best, upheld,
 Move by her two maine nerves,
 Iron & Gold In all her equipage; besides to know
 Both spirituall powre & civill, what each meanes
 What which each thou hast learnt, which few have don.
 The bounds of either sword to thee wee ow.
 Therefore on thy firme hand religion leanes
 In peace, & reck'ns thee her eldest son.

THE END