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## James Graham, first marquess of Montrose, 271 Upon the Death of King Charles the First

Peter Davidson (ed.), *Poetry and Revolution: An Anthology of British and Irish Verse 1625–1660*

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### ***271 Upon the Death of King Charles the First***

Great! Good! and Just! could I but rate  
My griefs, and thy too rigid fate,  
I'de weep the world to such a strain,  
As it should Deluge once again,  
5 But since thy loud-tongu'd bloud demands supplies  
More from *Briareus* hands, than *Argus* eyes,  
I'le sing thy Obsequies, with Trumpet sounds,  
And write thy Epitaph with *Bloud* and *Wounds*.

*Montrose*

10 *Written with the point of his Sword.*

## NOTES

Title] *Epitaph on King Charles I. W*; One K. Charles the I *E*

**271** Text: *The Poems of John Cleveland, with additions never before printed*, 1653, p. 88; Scolar Press facsimile, Menston, 1971. This poem had an understandably wide circulation, being printed in *Reliquiae Sacrae Carolinae*, 1650, p. 355, and in a broadsheet of c.1660, British Library, Thomason E 1874 (2). There are numerous manuscript copies, amongst them Bodleian Library MS Add. B. 83, f. 13; MS Rawl. C. 986, f. 15, and MS Rawl. D. 108, f. 109, all of which ascribe the poem to Montrose. There is a musical setting in *Songs for one, two and three voices, composed by Henry Bowman, Philomusicus*, Oxford, 1679. Copy-text here is Cleveland's *Poems*, 1653, variants from *A Choice Collection*, 1706-11, see no. 46, iii. 116 [*W*] and from Edinburgh, NLS, MS Adv. 33.2.7, f. 102r [*E*]

**271** 1 rate equal

2 and] to *W, E*

3 to] in *W, E*

4 should Deluge once] would once deluge *W*

4-7

As should deludge it ones againe  
Bot since thy fait far more requyres  
Briarius handes, then Argus eyes  
Ill toune thy obsequies to trumpets sounds

*E*

4 *Deluge* flood

6 *Briareus, Argus* see Appendix 1

7 sing thy Obsequies, with] tune Thy Elegies toff

8 with] in *W, E* [9-10 not in *W, E*]