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**SOME NOTES ON LITOTES IN THOMAS MORE'S
*THE HISTORY OF KING RICHARD III***

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The list and comments that follow are in response to a query from Germain Marc'hadour and Clare M. Murphy about litotic structures in *Richard III*—a query triggered by Abbé Marc'hadour's discussion of litotes in his comparison of seven recent translations of More's *Utopia* (pp. 63-90 above), and furthered by his unflagging interest. I noticed 18, more or less, on a quick first reading of the English version in CW2, with which I am primarily concerned, while subsequent readings yielded 32 and 47, and the list now stands at 101. Almost certainly there are more, since some litotes are almost invisible or resist definition. How do we treat "Cecily not so fortunate as fair" (CW2, 3/9), for example? To my ear, this sounds like a somewhat "backward" construction in English, though perhaps less so in the Latin texts I have checked: "Cecilia non perinde fortunata ac formosa" (CW2, 3/9-10), and "Cecilia / non perinde fortunata quam formosa" (CW15, 314/12). Like litotes, this construction requires us to weigh words that are linked (in this case by alliteration) but that are also negatively related in some not wholly specified (and in this way litotic) degree. I imagine, then, that readers may want to add to (and/or subtract from) this list, which can serve as a point of departure. At the same time, this list is already more than long enough to document More's interest in and fondness for litotes—where something is affirmed by stating the negative of its opposite—in his English as well as his Latin prose.

To facilitate comparisons with the Latin versions of *Richard III*, I have included parallel texts from two Latin texts, the Louvain

edition published in 1565 (in CW2) and the recently discovered Paris manuscript (in CW15), and noted citations to a third, MS Arundel 43 (in CW2), which is the least complete of the Latin texts but otherwise almost identical with the Paris manuscript. In several instances a parallel Latin passage, while litotic, achieves its effect differently. I have tried to include such cases: see, in particular, No. 37, where the English version goes from non-litotic to litotic, the Latin from litotic to non-litotic so as to spell out the difference between virtual imprisonment and living freely. I have marked omissions and passages in parallel Latin texts that contain no litotes with brackets; a significant number (30 in the Louvain edition in CW2 and 27 in the Paris manuscript in CW15) are thus bracketed out of the first 94 (these texts end before No. 95). I have not tried to list the many litotes that appear only in Latin, however. For example, contrast the simple English "great" in "great funeral honour" (CW2, 3/19) with the "non sine summo totius populi dolore lachrymisque sepultus est" of the 1565 edition (CW2, 3/21-22; underscoring mine). Interestingly, both the Arundel and the Paris manuscripts are closer to the English here, with "multis cum lachrimis sepultus" (CW2, 96/16-17; CW15, 316/4).

List of Litotes in *Richard III*

1. "And many of them in the mean season grown into his favor, of which he was never strange [sparing]" (CW2, 4/7-9).
["Alijs interea in gratiam atque amicitiam receptis, in quam conciliandam obuius omnibus atque expositus ferebatur" (CW2, 4/5-6).]
["alijs interea in gratiam atque amicitiam adscitis / in quam conciliandam obuius ac pronus ferebatur" (CW15, 316/15-16; idem CW2, 96/27-28).]
2. "he shall no less commend his wisdom where he voided [withdrew], than his manhood where he vanquished" (CW2, 4/15-16).
"is profecto non minus prudentiam eius admirabitur, sicubi cessit, quam laudabit audaciam, vbi vicit" (CW2, 4/11-13).
"is profecto non minus prudentiam eius admirabitur sicubi cessit / quam laudabit audaciam vbi vicit" (CW15, 316/22-23 ; idem CW2, 97n, 4-6).
3. "nonetheless not uncomely" (CW2, 4/19).
"nec tandem aspectu indecorus" (CW2, 4/15-16).
"nec tamen indecorus" (CW15, 316/26-27; idem CW2, 97/8).
4. "For none other errand but" (CW2, 5/15).
"haud alia de causa, quam" (CW2, 5/11-12).
"haud alia de causa quam" (CW15, 318/25 ; idem CW2, 97/32).
5. "Where he made them not so stately, but so friendly and so familiar cheer" (CW2, 5/16-17).
"Ibi eos non tam magnifico ac sumptuoso, quam amico & populari apparatu excepit" (CW2, 5/12-13).
"Ibi eos non tam magnificum ac sublimem quam amicum ac popularem vultum exhibuit" (CW15 ; 318.26-27 ; idem CW2, 98/1-2).
6. "that no one thing in many days before got him either more hearts or more hearty favor among the common people" (CW2 5/18-19).
"vt haud temere inuenias aliud, quod ei aut plurimum aut maiorem beneuolentiam conciliauerit apud populum" (CW2, 5/15-16).
"vt haud temere inuenias aliud / quod ei aut plurium [sic] aut maiorem beneuolentiam conciliauerit apud populum" (CW15, 318/28-30; cf. CW2, 98/3-5).
7. "had not unarmed them" (CW2, 5-28).
"non...exarmasset" (CW2, 5/23-24).
"non...exarmasset" (CW15, 320/6; idem CW2, 98/12).
8. "she could not be delivered of him uncut" (CW2, 7/24-25).
"Quippe quem fama est haud aliter aluo materna eximi,

- quam obstetricante ferro potuisse" (CW2, 7/19-20).
"quippe quem fama est haud aliter aluo materna eximi
quam obstetricante ferro potuisse" (CW15, 322/25-26 ;
idem CW2, 99/23-24).
9. "also not untoothed" (CW2, 7/27).
"Praeterea nec indentatum" (CW2, 7/22).
"preterea nec indentatum" (CW15, 322/28; idem CW2,
99/26).
10. "No evil captain was he in the war" (CW2, 7/30).
"Caeterum bello haud instrenuus dux est habitus" (CW2,
7/25).
"Ceterum bello haud instrenuus dux est habitus"
(CW15, 324/2 ; idem CW2, 99/28-29).
11. "not letting to kiss" (CW2, 8/9).
"nec eorum abstinens complexibus" (CW2, 8/12).
"nec eorum abstinens complexibus" (CW15, 324/14-15;
idem CW2, 100/8-9).
12. "not for evil will always" (CW2, 8/10).
"haud ob iram semper" (CW2, 8/13).
"haud ob iram semper" (CW15, 324/16; idem CW2,
100/9-10).
13. "undoubtedly" (CW2, 8/20).
"haud dubie" (CW2, 8/22).
"haud dubie" (CW15, 324/25 ; idem CW2, 100/18).
14. "but of all this point is there no certainty" (CW2, 9/5).
"Sed hac de re nihil certe asserere possum" (CW2, 9/6).
"Sed hac de re asserere nihil certe possum" (CW2,
326/15-16) ; idem CW2, 101/1).
15. "for he was not likely to speak it of nought" (CW2, 9/16-
17).
"nam temere dictum haud existimo" (CW2, 9/17-18).
"nam temere dictum haud existimo" (CW15, 328/2;
idem CW2, 101/12).

16. "albeit he nothing less mistrusted" (CW2, 10/16-17).
"quanquam nihil formidabat minus" (CW2, 10/15).
"quanquam nihil formidabat minus" (CW15, 328/29-
330/1 ; idem CW2, 102/5).
17. "By which the less while" (CW2, 11/13).
"quo minus diu" (CW2, 11/14).
"quo minus diu" (CW2, 330/18 ; idem CW2, 102/20).
18. "not always for great causes" (CW2, 12/5).
"haud magnis saepe de causis" (CW2, 12/7-8).
"haud magnis sepe de causis" (CW15, 332/19-20 ; idem
CW2, 103/12).
19. "and yet I wote nere whither [know never whether]"
(CW2, 12/10).
"Quanquam haud scio an" (CW2, 12/14).
"Vnum hoc scio / haud quaquam" (CW15, 332/22; idem
CW2, 103/18).
20. "Should no less move us to charity than the respect of
fleshly consanguinity" (CW2, 12/16-17).
"non minus momenti ad conciliandos animos, quam ipsa
sanguinis ratio contineret" (CW2, 12/22-23).
"non minus momenti ad conciliandos animos, quam ipsa
sanguinis ratio contineret" (CW15, 334/7-8 ; idem CW2,
103/26-27).
21. "and none was there present that" (CW2, 13/25-26).
"nemo erat qui" (CW2, 13/27).
"nemo erat qui" (CW15, 336/18-19 ; idem CW2, 105/1).
22. "not unwisely devised" (CW2, 14/16).
["Eam rem ab regina curatam" (CW2, 14/11).]
["Eam rem / ab Regina curatam" (CW15, 338/8; idem
CW2, 105/16).]
23. "unto us no little jeopardy" (CW2, 15/1).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 15).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 338; idem CW2, 105).]

24. "Nor none of us I believe is so unwise" (CW2, 15/21).
"Neque quenquam nostrum tam vecordem arbitror"
(CW2, 15/18-19).
"neque quemquam nostrum tam vecordem arbitror"
(CW15, 340/16; idem CW2, 106/15-16).
25. "none other thing studied upon but about the
coronation" (CW2, 16/14-15).
["animisque omnium intentis ad excipiendum regem,
ac diademate insigniendum" (CW2, 16/12-13).]
["animisque omnium intentis ad excipiendum Regem ac
diademate insigniendum" (CW15, 342/14-15; cf. CW2,
107/5-6).]
26. "which was likely not to be little" (CW2, 16/25).
["quod & immensum expectabatur" (CW2, 16/19-20).]
["quod et immensum expectabatur" (CW15, 342/23;
idem CW2, 107/13-14).]
27. "that they nothing earthly mistrusting" (CW2, 17/5-6).
[No text (CW2, 17/6).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 344; idem, CW2, 107).]
28. "not in good speed" (CW2, 17/6-7).
[No text (CW2, 17).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 344; idem CW2, 107).]
29. "perceiving well so great a thing without his knowledge
not begun for nought" (CW2, 18/11).
"rem tam atrocem & non temere, & se inscio coeptam"
(CW2, 18/5-6).
"rem tam atrocem et non temere et se inscio ceptam"
(CW15, 346/8-9; idem CW2, 108/15-16).
30. "to his place not far from Westminster" (CW2, 21/5-6).
"qui & ipse haud longe ab occidentali coenobio
habitabat" (CW2, 21/5).
"qui et ipse haud longe ab occidentali coenobio
habitabat" (CW15, 352/5-6; idem CW2, 110/20-21).
31. "They letted [refrained] not" (CW2, 21/8).

- "haud cunctanter" (CW2, 21/8-9).
"haud cunctanter" (CW15, 352/9; idem CW2, 110/24).
32. "no man unoccupied" (CW2, 21/22).
["Ociosum neminem" (CW2, 21/19).]
["ociosum neminem" (CW15, 352/21; idem CW2,
110/34).]
33. "he trusted the matter was nothing so sore as she took
it for" (CW2, 21/30-22/1).
"sibi factam spem rem haud perinde atrociter cessuram,
ac ipsi fingeret malignus rerum interpres timor" (CW2,
21/26-22/2).
"sibi factam spem / rem haud perinde atrociter cessuram
ac sibi fingeret iniquus rerum interpres timor" (CW15,
352/30-354/1; idem CW2, 111/7-9).
34. "nor none could pass unsearched" (CW2, 22/15-16).
"ne...inexcussus praeterueheretur" (CW2, 22/15).
"ne...inexcussus praeterueheretur" (CW15, 354/15-16;
idem CW2, 111/22-23).
35. "in none other manner, with none other voice or
semblance than to his coronation" (CW2, 23/29-30).
[No text (CW2, 23).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15/354-356; idem CW2,
112).]
36. "And that by her done to none other intent but"
(CW2, 25/27-28).
"Nec horum quicquam alia causa patratum, quam"
(CW2, 25/26-27).
"Nec horum quicquam alia causa patratum quam"
(CW15, 360/20-21; idem CW2, 113/31).
37. "For every man will ween [think] that no man will so
do for nought" (CW2, 26/20-21).
"Neque enim temere quisquam credetur in antrum sese
abdere, cui citra periculum liceat in luce ac libertate
viuere" (CW2, 26/22-23).

- "Neque enim temere credetur quisquam in antrum sese abdere cui citra periculum liceat in luce ac libertate viuere" (CW15, 362/16-18; cf. CW2, 114/17-19).
38. "Wherefore me thinketh it were not worst" (CW2, 26/25).
["censeo" (CW2, 26/27).]
["censeo" (CW15, 362/23; idem CW2, 114/23).]
39. "For never shall I by God's grace so wed myself to mine own will but that I shall be ready" (CW2, 27/16-17).
"Neque enim vnquam vsqueadeo mea mihi ratio blandietur, vt non paratus sim" (CW2, 27/12-13).
"Neque enim vnquam vsqueadeo mea mihi ratio blandietur, vt non paratus sim"
(CW15, 364/13-14; idem CW2, 115/6-7).
40. "was there never so undevout a king" (CW2, 28/7).
["neque rex tam audax fuerit quisquam" (CW2, 28/6-7).]
["neque rex tam audax fuerit quisquam" (CW15, 364/25 ; idem CW2, 115/17).]
41. "she nothing doubteth" (CW2, 29/3).
"de quorum fide non dubitat" (CW2, 29/2).
"de quorum fide non dubitat" (CW15, 366/21 ; idem CW2, 116/5-6).
42. "I doubt not" (CW2, 29/27).
"haud dubito" (CW2, 29/27).
"haud dubito" (CW15, 366/21 ; idem CW2, 116/26).
43. "I am not he that would be about to break them" (CW2, 30/4).
"non ego is sum qui suadeam infringendam" (CW2, 30/3-4).
"non ego is sum qui suadeam infringendam" (CW15, 368/27-28; idem CW2, 117/3).
44. "I would not be he that should be about to make them" (CW2, 30/5-6).

- "non suaserim instituendam" (CW2, 30/4-5).
"non suaserim instituendam" (CW15, 368/28-29 ; idem CW2, 117/3).
45. "Yet will I not say nay" (CW2, 30/6-7).
"Neque tamen inficior" (CW2, 30/5).
"Neque tamen inficior" (CW15, 368/29; idem CW2, 117/4-5).
46. "esteemed not slight, though it seem light" (CW2, 34/27).
[No text (CW2/34).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 378; idem CW2, 120).]
47. "My lord (quod the queen) I say not nay" (CW2, 34/31-32).
"Ad haec regina: Haud equidem negarim inquit, honorande pater" (CW2, 34/31).
"Ad hec Regina Haud equidem negauerim inquit honorande pater" (CW15, 378/21-22; idem CW2, 120/26).
48. "No man denieth" (CW2, 35/17).
"Nemo, inquit, ibit inficias" (CW2, 35/17-18).
"Nemo ibit inficias" (CW15, 380/14 ; cf. CW2, 121/9).
49. "no man doubteth" (CW2, 36/21-22).
"nemo opinor dubitat" (CW2, 36/22).
"nemo opinor dubitat" (CW15, 382/28; idem CW2, 122/14).
50. "that he nothing doubted" (CW2, 36/34).
[Latin developed differently (CW2, 36/32-33).]
[Latin developed differently (CW15, 384/9; cf. CW2, 122/24).]
51. "I need not far to seek" (CW2, 39/8-9).
"haud longe petitis indigeo" (CW2, 39/8-9).
"haud longe petitis indigeo" (CW15, 388/29; no text in CW2, 123).

52. "that he could not be conveyed out untaken" (CW2, 41/2-3).
"nec vllam puero elabendi facultatem nisi per dispositos in insidijs milites dari..." (CW2, 2-3).
"nec vllum puero exitum nisi in insidias dari" (CW15, 392/18; no text in CW2, 123).
53. "she nothing doubted" (CW2, 41/7).
["satis exploratum habuit" (CW2, 41/7).]
["satis exploratum habuit" (CW15, 302/22-23 ; no text in CW2, 123).]
54. "I neither am so unwise...nor so suspicious" (CW2, 41/14-15).
"neque adeo impudens [sic] ipsa sum...neque adeo suspiciosa" (CW2, 41/15-16).
"neque adeo imprudens ipsa sum...neque adeo suspiciosa" (CW15, 394/4-5; no text in CW2, 123).
55. "whom I doubt not but" (CW2, 41/20).
"quem ego non ambigo" (CW2, 41/20).
"quem ego me non ambigo" (CW15, 394/10 ; no text in CW2, 123).
56. "And I doubt not also but" (CW2, 41/21).
"Tamen istud etiam minus ambigo" (CW2, 41/22).
"Tamen istud etiam minus ambigo" (CW15, 394/11-12; no text in CW2, 123).
57. "it were no doubt but" (CW2, 43/21).
"nec dubium sit" (CW2, 43/16-17).
"nec dubium sit" (CW15, 398/15; no text in CW2, 123).
58. "a man could not well tell" (CW2, 43/27).
"statuere certo non possis" (CW2, 43/21).
"statuere certo non possis" (CW15 ; 398/20 ; no text in CW2, 123).
59. "as though all should not long be well" (CW2, 44/23-24).

- "tanquam rebus haud diu bene permansuris" (CW2, 44/19).
"tanquam rebus haud diu bene futuris" (CW15, 400/23-402/1; idem CW2, 124/15).
60. "it might haply [perhaps] turn them to no good" (CW2, 45/2-3).
"parum tuto" (CW2, 45/3).
["incaute" (CW15, 402/11; idem CW2, 124/25).]
61. "undoubtedly" (CW2, 46/10).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 46/7).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 404/17; idem CW2, 125/19).]
62. "as it was never other" (CW2, 48/11).
["sed quale tamen ab initio fuerat" (CW2, 48/11).]
["sed quale tamen ab initio fuerat" (CW15, 410/1-2; idem CW2, 127/3-4).]
63. "no man was there present but well knew" (CW2, 48/18).
[No text (CW2, 48).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 410; idem CW2, 27).]
64. "no man should ween [think]...except that" (CW2, 52/28-30).
[No equivalent in text (CW2/52).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15/420; idem CW2, 130).]
65. "she not very fervently loved for whom she never longed" (CW2, 55/11-12).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 55).]
"haud vnquam admodum dilexit eum quo prius est potita quam adfectauit" (CW15, 426/1-2; idem CW2, 132/19-20).
66. "nothing left but riveled [wrinkled] skin" (CW2, 55/31).
[No text (CW2, 55).]

- "nulla pristini illius tam laudati corporis parte reliqua preterquam arida cute contacta ossa" (CW15, 426/25-428/1 ; idem CW2, 133/7-8).
67. "sometime taunting without displeasure & not without disport" (CW2, 56/4-5).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 56/4-5).]
"ludens interim salibus et facetijs citra dolorem cuiusquam / nec sine risu" (CW15, 428/10-11 ; idem CW2, 133/17-18).
68. "wanton women and wealthy be not always covetous" (CW2, 56/24).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 56/24).]
"seu puella presente fortuna lasciuens nec de futuro sollicita non vsque quaque diuitijs inhiabat" (CW15, 428/30-430/2 ; cf. CW2, 134/1-2).
69. "I doubt not" (CW2, 56/26).
[No text (CW2, 56).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 430; idem CW2, 134).]
70. "Her doings were not much less, albeit they be much less remembered, because they were not so evil" (CW2, 57/3-4).
"Haud temere cuiquam illorum autoritate gratiaque inferior, qui diuersis aetatibus apud suos quique principes valentes sola scelerum fama posteris inlarescunt, eo diuturniore memoria, quo deteriore" (CW2, 57/3-6).
"haud temere cuiquam illorum autoritate gratiaque inferior / qui diuersis etatibus apud suos quique principes valentes sola scelerum fama posteris inlarescunt / eo diuturniore memoria quo deteriore" (CW15, 430/4-7; idem CW2, 134/4-7).
71. "which is not worst proved by her" (CW2, 57/6-7).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 57).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 430/8; idem, CW2, 134).]

72. "was there not without his assent beheaded" (CW2, 57/17-18)
["capite plectebantur" CW2, 57/17).]
["capite plectebantur" CW15, 430/18; idem CW2, 134/17).]
73. "as they might easily perceive it booted [availed] not greatly to say nay" (CW2, 61/33-34).
["qui facile cernentes in quam partem Regis animus propenderet, certatim approbant" (CW2, 61/32-33).]
["sed ita / facile vt scire possent / quisquis contra suasurus esset / operam esse lusurum : ergo futurum quod videbant / certatim approbant" (CW15, 440/4-7) ; cf. CW2, 137/19-21).]
74. "Which were not likely to take it well..." (CW2, 62/7).
"qui frustrari labores suos & eludi quae firmavit indoleat, non satis aestimare te video quam valde tuarum rerum interfuerit" (CW2, 62/30-32).
"qui ne frustrari labores suos et eludi quae firmavit indoleat / non satis estimare te video quam valde tuarum rerum interfuerit" (CW15, 442/6-8 ; idem CW2, 138/10-12).
75. "in whose person albeit there was nothing to be misliked" (CW2, 62/16-17).
"in cuius corpore indoleve animi vt nihil improbo" (CW2, 62/16-17).
"in cuius corpore indoleve animi / vt nihil improbo" (CW15, 440/18-19; idem CW2, 137/31).
76. "yet nonetheless him seemed that this marriage...was not unprofitable" (CW2, 63/9-10).
"is ipse ni fallor inueniet illud non vsqueadeo incommodum" (CW2, 63/9-10).
"is ipse ni fallor inueniet illud non tam vehementer incommodum" (CW15, 442/17-18 ; idem CW2, 138/20-21).

77. "And I doubt not" (CW2, 63-25).
"neque hercle inficior" (CW2, 63/26).
"neque hercle inficior" (CW15, 444/9 ; idem CW2, 139/1-2).
78. "I let not them" (CW2, 63/26-27).
"neque prohibeo" (CW2, 63/27).
"neque prohibeo" (CW15, 444/9; idem CW2, 139/2).
79. "not impossible" (CW2, 65/32).
[No equivalent in text (CW2, 65/20-21).]
[No equivalent in text (CW15, 448/9-10; idem CW2, 140/13-14).]
80. "was neither unlearned" (CW2, 69/9).
"vt erat neque prorsus illiteratus" (CW2, 69/10).
"vt erat neque prorsus illiteratus" (CW15, 454/20 ; idem CW2, 142/23).
81. "and no less weighty than pleasing to God and profitable to all the realm" (CW2, 69/14-15).
"nec magis magna quam omnibus vtili, neque cuiquam vtiliore quam vobis" (CW2, 69/13-14).
"nec magis magna quam in publicum vtili / neque cuiquam vtiliore quam vobis"
(CW15, 454/24-25; idem CW2, 142/26-27).
82. "I doubt not many here present" (CW2, 70/29).
"quum nemo sit ex hac tanta frequentia, qui non...sit expertus" (CW2, 70/28-29).
"quum nemo sit ex hac tanta frequentia qui non... sit expertus" (CW15, 458/20-21 ; idem CW2, 143/30-31).
83. "for that you not without your great cost" (CW2, 72/27).
["sed quod magno cum impendio, periculoque vestro" (CW2, 72/23-24).]
["sed quod magno cum impendio periculoque vestro" (CW15, 464/7-8; idem CW2, 145/14-15).]
84. "I am not so proud to look therfore [for that]" (CW2, 73/3).
"Neque enim mihi tantum ipsi arrego" (CW2, 73/3).

- "Neque enim mihi tantum ipsi arrego" (CW15, 464/17-18 ; idem CW2, 145/24).
85. "Which room [post] I warn you well is no child's office"(CW2, 74/16).
"Quod ego munus praedico vobis haud quaquam puerilis esse ingenij" (CW2, 74/16-17).
"Quod ego munus predico vobis haud quaquam puerilis esse ludi" (CW15, 466/22-23; cf. CW2, 146/15-16).
86. "we doubt not but" (CW2, 74/25-26).
"non exiguum spem concepimus" (CW2, 74/28).
"non exiguum spem concepimus" (CW15, 468/8 ; idem CW2, 146/26).
87. "they perceive you not well" (CW2, 75/8).
"non satis exauditam illis orationem tuam" (CW2, 75/7-8).
"non satis exauditam illis orationem tuam" (CW15, 468/20-21 ; idem CW2, 147/3-4).
88. "that we would not gladly do without you" (CW2, 76/6).
"nisi noster in vos amor suasisset, ne vos ab eius tractatu rei excluderemus" (CW2, 76/4-5).
"nisi noster in vos amor suasisset ne vos ab eius tractatu rei segregaremus" (CW15, 470/25-26. cf. CW2, 147/31-32).
89. "no man saying nay" (CW2, 76/27-28).
"ne quidem sit auditus, qui contra dixerit" (CW2, 76/27).
"ne vnus quidem sit auditus qui contra dixerit" (CW15, 472/19-20 ; idem CW2, 148/16-17).
90. "we doubt not but" (CW2, 76/30-31).
"haud dubie" (CW2, 76/29).
"haud dubie" (CW15, 472/21 ; idem CW2, 148/18-19).
91. "that were not very merry" (CW2, 77/3).
["multi simulata laetitia" (CW2, 77/2).]

["multi simulata leticia" (CW15, 472/26 ; idem CW2, 148/23).]

92. "the intent of their coming without his displeasure" (CW2, 77/32-78/1).
 "vti liceret ipsis quae vellent libere citra vllam eius offensam proloqui" (CW2, 77/28-29).
 "vti liceret ipsis quae vellent libere citra vllam eius offensam proloqui" (CW15, 474/15-16).

Note that the Arundel MS stops before this passage: see CW2, 149/4.

93. "Notwithstanding" (CW2, 79/2).
 "Sed tamen" (CW2, 79/2).
 "Sed tamen" (CW15, 478/7).
94. "& do themselves no good" (CW2, 81/10).
 [No text (CW2, 81/10).]
 ["magna in semet concitasse pericula" (CW15, 482/24).]

Note that the 1565 edition ends at CW2, 82/7.

Note that the text for the Paris MS ends at CW15, 484/25. From this point on, there is no Latin text.

95. "as me thinketh it were hard but it should be true" (CW2, 83/6-7).
96. "in which he found him nothing strange" (CW2, 84/20-21).
97. "no long time in rest" (CW2, 87/21).
98. "notwithstanding" (CW2, 89/20-21).
99. "that he was of truth not well at ease" (CW2, 90/14).
100. "& that both to King Richard well known, & not ill taken" (CW2, 90/14-15).
101. "nor any demand of the duke's uncourteously rejected" (CW2, 90/15-16).

This long list of English litotes is varied enough to resist any easy generalizations, especially as some of them are ambiguous or almost hidden in a text that generates such fear and foreboding. Nevertheless, I think we can draw some tentative conclusions. At times, the litotes seem to be consciously rhetorical, as when More breaks up a run of otherwise affirmative words, phrases, or clauses with a litotic form that intensifies the description. (See, for example, No. 3, 32, or 80). An important number appear in connection with mental or psychological activity; that is, More turns to litotes when he wants to indicate the mind at work or engaged in the deception of self or another. (Examples include No. 22, 24, 29, 37, 38, 54, 74, 76). More likes to cluster litotes at moments of high tension, as in the passages on Richard III, Shore's wife, and John Morton. Almost all of the litotes also contribute to larger ironies of situation and atmosphere; in this connection the many expressions that deny doubt are particularly striking and ironic, since almost everything is, in fact, suspect. Finally, More's litotes often create a characteristically English sort of understatement (cf. the preceding review essay by Germain Marc'hadour) or a kind of black comedy that quickly turns to horror; see, for instance, No. 60, 71, 73, 74, or 91 (a particularly telling instance, since the Latin consists of a rather flat-footed assertion).

I have not had the chance to study the Latin texts long enough to say much about them; in any case, they deserve a separate study. If we compare the litotes in the English version with parallel Latin passages in the 1565 edition and in the Paris and Arundel manuscripts, however, we can, I think, see More responding to the nature and potential of each language. As Richard S. Sylvester notes in his introduction to CW2 (lvii-lviii), More does not seem to have "translated" his text literally, as was his usual practice: "His method points rather to some sort of simultaneous composition of both narratives, with neither Latin nor English commanding an absolute priority" (CW2, lviii). More's ways with litotes in his English and his Latin versions underscore this; sometimes the two are literal, but sometimes the litotic effect is achieved differently, or occurs in one language and not the other. What impresses me is how

"English," that is how vernacular and even colloquial, many of More's English litotes are—see my discussion of "well," below, and what sound like variations upon colloquial expressions, as in No. 1, 22, 27, 29, 37, 45, 47, 54, 71, 73, 74, 91, and 96. Finally, a comparison of the litotes in the Latin texts that I have cited with each other and with the English reinforces Daniel Kinney's point that the text in the Paris manuscript is superior to the Louvain 1565 edition (CW15, cxliii); see, in particular, No. 54, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 85.

A few of the English litotes on the list call for more particular comment. Notice the highly charged cluster in the passage on Shore's wife, which includes what Clare Murphy called "the famous sentence about those still living because of Mrs. Shore's intercession" (No. 70). Here More prefaces a non-litotic clause ("be much less") with a litotic parallel ("were not much less") that anticipates the words in the next clause and follows these clauses with yet another litotic construction that comments ironically and tragically on the nature of human nature. Then there is the frightening and well-known characterization of the new-born Richard as "not untoothed" (No. 9). It is as if he issues from the womb already armed, ready to bite the breast that feeds him, as indeed he later does metaphorically by insinuations about his mother as an "adulteress" (CW2, 59/27; cf. CW2, 73/17-18), as he orchestrates his claims to kingship. Richard cares nothing for kin or kind, words that are constantly played upon in the text and as constantly violated by him. In fact, verbal and aural linkages are among the most striking characteristics of many of the litotes in *Richard III*, as well, and we need to read *The History of King Richard III* aloud for the full effect of such echoes. For instance, consider No. 43 and No. 44, which need to be heard together, or No. 46, where More rhymes "slight" and "light." Similarly, More frequently plays upon "well," one of the simplest, yet perhaps most important words, in his English text: notice how often "well" appears in the list above. While No. 74 sounds simple, then, the Duchess of York's "well" (here litotic) follows an earlier "well" (CW2, 62/5), which is twice repeated by the king less than a page later (CW2, 63/4; 63/5). Compare and

contrast with this the verbal echoes of No. 99 and 100 where we hear "well" twice, followed by the litotic "not ill."

Let me comment on just one more instance. No. 85, "Which room I warn you well is no child's office," depends upon a sense of the child as innocent, an effect intensified by the later tragic story of the murder of the little princes, which appears only in the English version. The speaker here, the Duke of Buckingham, is wholly intent on making the case for Richard the protector as king, and subsequently quotes the Bible for his own malicious purposes: "And that the great wise man well perceived, when he said: *Veh regno cuius rex puer est*, Woe is that realm that hath a child to their king" (CW2, 74/16-18). But the extended focus on the child, initiated litotically, invites urgent questions: what is the child's office (nominally one of play, ominously exploited by the protector and others early in the text, as they argue against sanctuary for the younger prince) and what is (or should be) the king's? The text reverberates almost endlessly and ironically in this so-called "green world" (CW2, 90/4) where "king's games" are "played upon scaffolds" (CW2, 81/6-7), and "king" becomes another name for tyrant. Note, then, how the Paris manuscript emphasizes the play element, with "ludi" (No. 85, above).

To conclude: I do not think that litotes play as important a part in More's English *Richard III* as they do in his *Utopia*. There is a good reason for this. The *Utopia*, which can be thought of as presenting at least a two-sided vision, claims to describe the best state of the commonwealth in an island that is nowhere but that negates (or purports to negate) the negations that characterize so much of Western Europe. Its very structure is, in some sense, litotic, then. But More's history can hardly be thought of as anything but negative. The England of *Richard III* is a very dark world, one where there is no stable or sure point, and there is danger at every turn, so that the irony and the ambiguity are of a different sort. Almost no one can be trusted, and *nothing* is "well," despite the many ironic repetitions of and litotic plays upon that word in More's English version—in this connection consider the tense play upon "well" early in the text, when a messenger from the Lord

Chamberlain assures the archbishop of York that "all shall be well" (CW2, 21/13).

But litotes are an indispensable part of *Richard III*, nevertheless. They contribute a great deal to a muscular and active, energetic, prose; they make for psychological and emotional intensity; they invite ethical and political questions; and they obliquely render judgment. Last, but not least, they show More crafting a prose that, while sometimes congested or awkward, can also be both subtle and deep through its ironic understatements and its appeals to the ear as well as the mind. This is not surprising, since language itself is such an important weapon, sometimes offensive, sometimes defensive, in *Richard III*: witness the many orations, speeches, sermons, and proclamations; the verbal (as well as literal) assassinations of character and person; the conspiracies and plots; the importance of rumor and propaganda; and the complicated game of wit and words that John Morton, then Bishop of Ely, plays so brilliantly in the final scene of *Richard III* as we have it. More did not complete either his English or his Latin version, but the exchange between Morton and the Duke of Buckingham puts into high relief the power of language to jeopardize the positions and lives of others or to try to protect or advance one's own, a major issue in More's narrative, and, then and later, in his own life.

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