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SUMMARY: The document below is an entry recording payment by warrant of the Privy Council dated 15 March 1595 to William Kempe, William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon, and Richard Burbage (1568-1619), members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, for performances of two comedies or interludes before the Queen on St. Stephen's Day [=26 December], and Innocents' Day [=28 December] 1594.

In the National Archives, the entry is catalogued under Records of the Exchequer, Pipe Office, Declared Accounts, Treasurers of the Chamber, Mary, Countess of Southampton (widow and executrix of Sir Thomas Heneage). Sir Thomas Heneage (b. in or before 1532, d. 17 October 1595) in 1570 'secured a major post, the treasurership of the queen's chamber, which disbursed about £15,000 per annum'. On 2 May 1594 he married, Mary (d. 1607), widow of Henry Wriothesley, 2nd Earl of Southampton.

For a facsimile of the entry, see Schoenbaum, Samuel, *William Shakespeare: A Documentary Life*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975), p. 136.

To William Kempe, William Shakespeare & Richard Burbage, servants to the Lord Chamberlain, upon the Council's warrant dated at Whitehall xvto Martij 1594 [=15th March 1595] for two several comedies or interludes showed by them before her Majesty in Christmas time last past, viz., upon St. Stephen's Day & Innocents' Day, £13 6s 8d, and by way of her Majesty's reward, £6 13s 4d, in all £20.