

Where do people gather to see the speaker now

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Where do people gather to see the speaker now, according to the fourth stanza?

In Robert Browning's (1812-89) poem "The Patriot" (1855), the speaker reflects on the final change in people's behavior toward him. Once celebrated as a hero, he is now treated as a criminal. The fourth stanza describes where people have gathered to watch his downfall.

Empty House-tops: The speaker notes that no one is cheering for him anymore. The house-tops, which were once crowded, are now empty. This shows how quickly people forget their heroes.

Windows with Few Observers: Only a few old, weak people are at the windows. They are not there to celebrate but to see him pass. This reflects his loneliness and rejection.

At the Shambles' Gate: Most of the crowd is gathered at the Shambles' Gate. This is where criminals are taken to be punished. It shows that people now see him as a wrongdoer.

Near the Scaffold: Many people stand near the scaffold, eager to watch his execution. Their excitement contrasts sharply with the love they once showed him.

The speaker's journey from hero to condemned is painful. The places where people gather highlight their fickleness and cruelty. It reminds readers of how public opinion can change in an instant.