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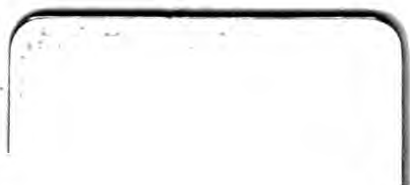
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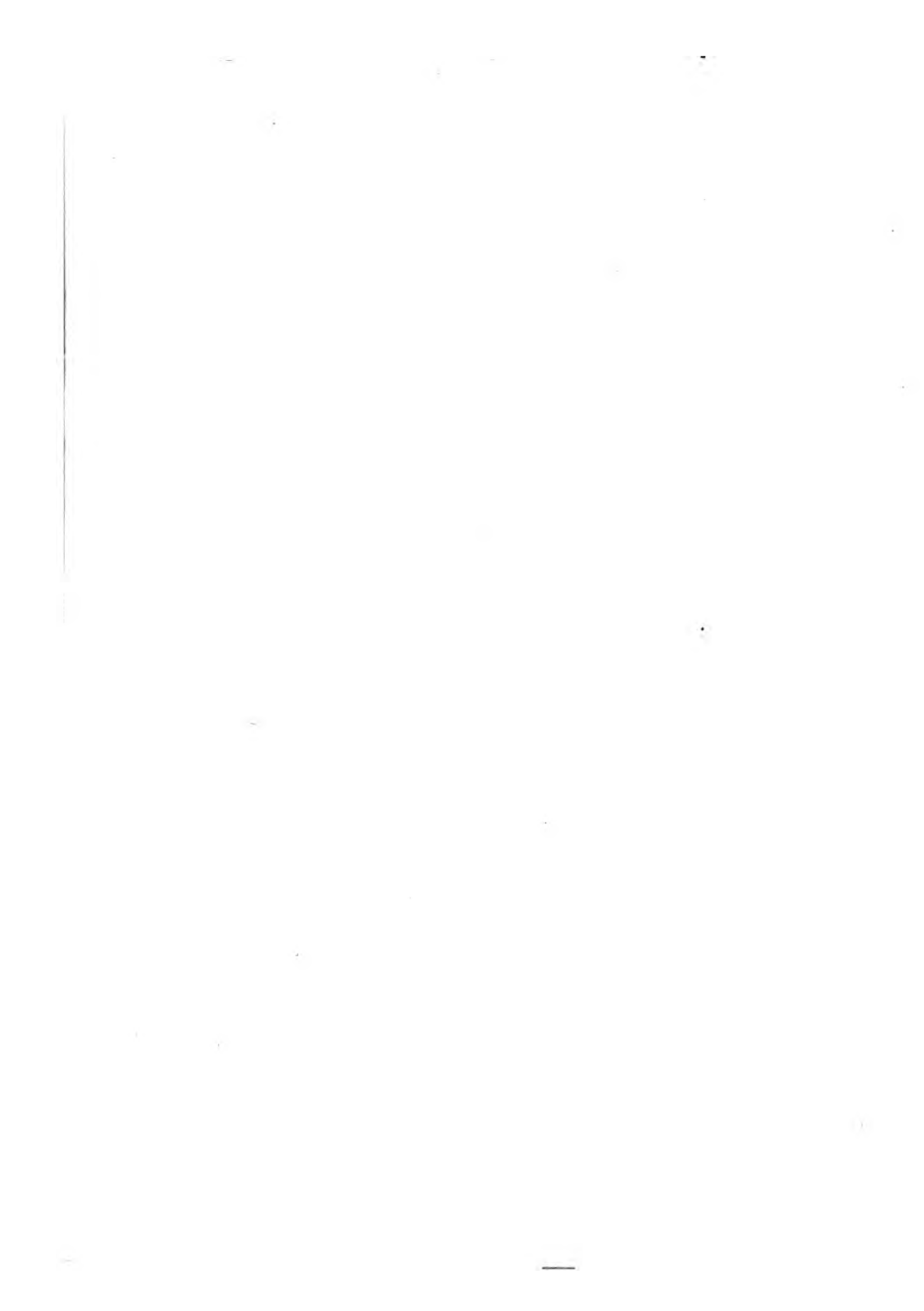
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A N  
Humble Application  
TO THE  
QUEEN,  
And Her Great Council,  
THE  
Parliament of *England*,  
To SUPPRESS  
*Play-Houses* and *Bear-Baitings*,  
With All  
*Propbaness* and *Immorality*.



By John Feild.

*For Rulers are not a Terror to Good Works, but to Evil.—But if thou do that which is Evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the Sword in vain: For he is the Minister of God, to revenge Wrath upon him that doth Evil, Rom. 13. 3, 4.*

LONDON, Printed and Sold by *C. Sowle*, in *White-Hart-Court* in *Gracious-Street*, 1703.

27.

*Mason A. P. 3.*



Humble Application

QUERRELL

AND HIS WIFE

Parliament of England

TO SUPPERS

Wm. Hunter and Dr. B. Hunter

and

Proprietors and Managers

By John Field

Printed and Sold by Wm. Hunter and Dr. B. Hunter, at the Sign of the Three Kings, in the Strand, near the Theatre Royal, in the City of London.

LONDON: Printed by Wm. Hunter and Dr. B. Hunter, at the Sign of the Three Kings, in the Strand, near the Theatre Royal, in the City of London.

A N

# Humble Application

T O T H E

# Q U E E N,

And Her Great Council, the  
*Parliament of England, &c.*

**I**N Humility I make this Application to the QUEEN, and Her Great Council, the Parliament: That they would, in the Fear and Wisdom of God, be pleased, for his Honour, the Good of the Nation, and Reputation of the Christian Religion, not to License or Countenance, with Authority, any *Play-Houses, Revellings at the Temple, Dice-playing, Gaming, Stage-Players, Bull or Bear-baitings,* but totally to suppress and put them down; for thereby *Vice, Prophaness, Debauchery and Immorality,* do greatly abound, and are so Provokingly Practised, to the Scandal of Religion, and Ruine of many. And that Effectual Care may be also taken, that no *Cursing, Swearing,* or Calling upon God to *Damn their Souls,* may be Practised or Indulged by any, especially *Legislators,* or those that are in any Publick Stations or Employments in the Government; that so all which are under them, may, by their Sober Carriage, and Exemplary Conversations, be brought to Shame, and inclined to Repentance, and Amendment of their Lives and Practices; that so the Lord may turn away his Wrath, and the Blessings of God may be Enjoyed and Continued to this Nation.

For is not this the End, for which the *most High God,* that

Rules in the *Kingdoms of Men*, and appointeth over it whomsoever he will, (the God in whose Hand the Breath of all Living is) hath, by his *Divine Providence*, placed the present QUEEN upon the Throne of Her *Royal Ancestors*? And is it not by the Lord, Power is given unto Her, and *Sovereignty* from the Highest?

And as She bears Rule among Men, it's my Hearty Desire and Prayer unto God, she may be Just, *Ruling in the Fear of God*; that so she may be Endued with that Wisdom, by whom *Kings reign, and Princes decree Justice*, and may not Bear the Sword in Vain; but be a *Terror* to them that do Evil, and a *Praise* to them that do well; that Her Throne may be Established in *Righteousness*, and the *Blessings of God* may be upon Her and her People; and that she may *Live for ever*.

And I am the more Emboldned thus to make my Humble Application to the *Queen* and the *Parliament*, and have the more ground to hope this my Request will be answered by Her and Them, Because she hath, in Her Royal Proclamation, *For the Encouragement of Piety and Vertue, and Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophaness and Immorality*, dated the 26th of March, 1702. Thus declared to Her Subjects, *viz.*

‘ We most Seriously and Religiously Considering, that  
 ‘ it is an Indispensible Duty on Us, to be Careful, above  
 ‘ all other Things, to Preserve and Advance the Honour  
 ‘ and Service of Almighty God, and to Discourage and  
 ‘ Suppress All Vice, Prophaness, Debauchery and Immo-  
 ‘ rality; which are so highly Displeasing to God, so great  
 ‘ Reproach to our Religion and Government, and (by means  
 ‘ of the frequent ill Examples of the Practicers thereof) have  
 ‘ so fatal a Tendency, to the Corruption of many of our  
 ‘ Loving Subjects, otherwise Religiously and Vertuously  
 ‘ Disposed, and which (if not timely Remedied) may  
 ‘ justly draw down the Divine Vengeance upon Us, and  
 ‘ Our Kingdoms.

Is there not therefore great need; in *Duty to God*, to Advance his *Honour*, and Prevent his *Vengeance*, and take away Reproach from our *Religion* and *Government*; that those *Nurseries of Vice*, the *Play-Houses*, *Stage-Players*, *Revellings* and *Gaming*, with *Bull* and *Bear-baitings*, may be **totally** Suppressed and put down, which have so great and fatal a Tendency, to the Corruption of the *Queen's Subjects*; and Ruine of many; and may draw down

(as

(as such Provoking Abominations often have) the *Divine Vengeance*, if continued; as she well and truly observes, saying: *Dei est Suis*

‘ We humbly acknowledge, We cannot expect the Blessing and Goodness of Almighty God (by whom Kings and Queens Reign, and on which we intirely Rely) to make our Reign happy and Prosperous to our Self and People, nor hope for the Divine Assistance to Deliver us from the Great and Eminent Dangers, which our Kingdom, (and the true Protestant Religion established among Us, are in this present Juncture threatned with, without a Religious Observance of God’s Holy Law.

I therefore hope, the *Queen* and *Parliament* will Actually put down all *Play-Houses*, and not suffer *Stage-Players*, and *Riotous Meetings* at *Bear-Gardens*, &c. to be upheld, under Pretence of her *Authority*, nor so to be Published in Print unto the World, as is too common by the  *HOLDERS* thereof: Inasmuch as the *Queen*, by the Advice of her *Privy Council*, doth declare thus;

‘ It is our *Royal Purpose* and *Resolution*, to Discountenance and Punish all manner of *Vice* and *Immorality* in All Persons, and Every Degree or Quality, within this Realm; and particularly in such that are Employed near our *Royal Person*: And that for the greater Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all occasions, distinguish Persons of Piety and Vertue, by Marks of our *Royal Favour*.

Wherefore it may be humbly hoped, that the *Queen* and her *Parliament*, will not only openly declare against, but put down these manifest Provocations, as they desire her *Reign* may be *Prosperous*, and hope for *Divine Assistance* and *Deliverance*, from those Great and Eminent Dangers, which the *Queen*, her *Nation*, and *Protestant Religion*, are threatned with.

For most certain it is, as the late *King*, the *Queen’s* *Royal Brother*, did declare in his *Proclamation*, dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of *February*, 1697. viz. ‘ Nothing can prove a greater Dishonour to a Well-ordered Government, where the Christian Faith is Professed, nor is likelier to Provoke God to withdraw his Mercy and Blessings from us, and instead thereof, to inflict heavy and severe Judgments upon this Kingdom, than the open and avowed Practice of *Vice*, *Immorality* and *Prophaness*, which amongst Men has too much prevailed in this our Kingdom of late Years, to the high Displeasure

' pleasure of Almighty God, the great Scandal of Christianity,  
 ' and the ill and fatal Example of the rest of our Loving Sub-  
 ' jects, who have been Soberly Educated, and whose Inclinations  
 ' would lead them to the Exercise of Piety and Vertue, did they  
 ' not daily find such frequent and repeated Instances of Dissolute  
 ' Living, Prophaness and Impiety.

Also the late Queen *Mary*, in her *Letter* (in the absence of the  
 King) to the *Justices of the Peace in the County of Middlesex*, for the  
 Suppressing of Prophaness and Debauchery, dated July 9. 1691. saith,  
 ' Concerning the Great and Indispensible Duty incumbent upon  
 ' Us, to Promote and Encourage a Reformation of the Manners  
 ' of all Our Subjects; that so the Service of God may be Ad-  
 ' vanced, and those Blessing be Procured to these Nations, which  
 ' always attend a Consciencious Discharge of Our Respective Du-  
 ' ties, according to our several Relations: We think it necessary,  
 ' in order to the Obtaining of this Publick Good, to Recommend  
 ' to you the putting in Execution, with all Fidelity and Impar-  
 ' tiality, those Laws which have been made, and are still in  
 ' force, against the Profanation of the Lord's Day, Drunken-  
 ' ness, Prophane Swearing and Cursing, and all other Lewd,  
 ' Enormous, and Disorderly Practices,—for preventing of such  
 ' Judgments which are Solemnly Denounced against the Sins  
 ' above-mentioned,—as you tender the Honour of Almighty God,  
 ' the Flourishing Condition of his Church in this Kingdom, the  
 ' Continuance of his Holy Religion among Us, and the Pro-  
 ' sperity of your Country.

And the House of Commons, in their Address to the late King  
*William*, well observed: ' The Examples of Men in High and  
 ' Publick Stations, have a Powerful Influence upon the Lives  
 ' of others; (and therefore say) We do most humbly Beseech  
 ' your Majesty, That all Vice, Prophaness and Irreligion,  
 ' may in a particular manner be Discouraged, in all those  
 ' who have the Honour to be Employed near your Royal  
 ' Person, and in all others who are in your Majesty's Ser-  
 ' vice, by Sea and Land; appointing strict Orders to be  
 ' given

given to all your Commanders, That they not only shew a good Example themselves, but also inspect the Manners of those under them: And that your Majesty would, upon all occasions, distinguish Men of Piety and Vertue, by Marks of your Royal Favour.

And that noted Book, Intituled, *An Account of the Societies for Reformation of Manners, &c.* printed 1699. Which hath been Perused and Recommended, the Design of which is so truly Great and Noble, so much for the Honour of God, the Advancement of Piety and Vertue, and the Publick Good both of Church and State, that it cannot fail of being approved by all good Men, as the Twenty Nine Temporal Lords, Nine Bishops, and Seven Judges, declared to the Author; see the Book. And in page 4. of the said Book: 'It's well observed, that in our open Streets, as if we were resolved to out-do the Impieties of the very Heathens, Prophaness, and even Blasphemy, was too often the Wit and Entertainment of our Scandalous Play-Houses, and Sincere Religion became the Jest and Scorn of our Courts in the late Reigns. And thus Debauchery diffused it self throughout the whole Body of the Nation, till at last our Morals were so Corrupted, that Vertue and Vice had with too many changed their Names: It was reckoned Breeding to Swear, Gallantry to be Lewd, Good Humour to be Drunk, and Wit to despise Sacred Things; and it was enough to have rendred one suspected of Phanaticism, or an Abjectness of Spirit, and a Matter of Reproach, not to suffer one's self to be carried away with the Torrent of Wickedness, and not to glory in those Fashionable Vices.

Thus we see, we have Three Crowned Heads, the Parliament of England, Twenty Nine Lords, Nine Bishops, and Seven Judges, Testifying against Vice and Immorality.

Therefore it's humbly Requested, That the Government would be pleased totally to Suppress all the Play-Houses, that none of them may be suffered to pretend the Queen's Authority or License for any of them; being the Nurseries of Debauchery, the Bane of Youth, the Corruption of Manners, and the Shame of Government, and Scandal of Christianity: 'That Religion be not treated (as saith the aforesaid Book, p. 114.) 'with any Disrespect; particularly, that it be not made the Scorn of any Order or Body of Men, the common Subject of the Prophane Play-Houses, or the Sport of Buffoons; and that the open Violation of it, by Prophane Swearing

Swearing and Cursing, Drunkenness, Lewdness, &c. be suppressed; as all Wise Nations, I conceive, have ever done, and ever will do.

I hope it will not be either Offensive or Improper, to add to the foregoing Quotations, something farther on the same Subject, and agreeable thereto, out of *Histrionum Scourge*, the Players Scourge, or Actor's Tragedy; by which it appears, the Author was an Antiquary of great Reading and Industry on this Subject; shewing, *Magistrates, Emperors and Princes*, have Excluded, Suppressed, and Condemned *Stage-Plays*: And in pag. 713, 714, 715. saith, 'If we look upon *Heathen States or Nations*, we shall find the Ancient *Lacedemonians, Athenians, Grecians, Romans, Germans, Mascilienses, Goths and Vandals*; if upon *Heathen Magistrates, Emperors or Princes*, we shall see *Licurgus, Solon, Plato, Socrates, Themistocles, Scipio, Nassica, Trebonius, Rufinus, Junius Mauricus*, together with *Augustus Caesar, Tiberius, Nero, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Domitian, Julian*, and the whole *Roman Senate*, Excluding, Suppressing, Condemning *Plays and Actors*, as the occasion of much Vice and Lewdness, the Fomenters of Whoredoms, Effeminacy, Idleness, &c. the Corrupters of the Peoples Minds and Manners, the Authors of many Tumults, Discords, Disorders; the Causes of much Prodigality, of many Intolerable Mischiefs in a State.—If we look on *Christian States or Nations*, we shall discern the whole State and Nation of the *Jews*, both before and since *Christ's* time, together with all the *Primitive Christians, the Waldenses, Albigenses, and French Protestants*, the Cities of *Geneva, Tigure, Basil*, and the whole State of *England*, in sundry Acts of Parliament, Condemning, Suppressing *Plays and Players*, as most Prophane Unchristian Spectacles, not Tolerable in any Christian Republick.—If we desire any Precedents of *Christian Emperors, Princes, Magistrates*, we have not only the Examples of *Noah, Melchizedec, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah*, with other Godly Patriarchs, Kings and Princes, Recorded in the Scriptures for our Christian Imitation; who were so far from Cherishing, from Approving, *Enterludes, Mummeries, Masques, or Stage-Plays*, either in their Palaces, Courts, or Kingdoms, (as too many Princes since have done) that we never Read in Scripture, nor in any other Story whatsoever, that they were so much as once Experimentally Acquainted with them: The whole Jewish Nation

Nation (some few Apostates only excepted) Oppugning them  
 from time to time (and so by Consequence, these Patriarchs,  
 Magistrates, and Princes too) as Opposite to their Religion,  
 Manners, Laws, and Government: — (Which methinks should  
 somewhat move all Christian Princes and Governments, to  
 abandon Stage-Plays now; since they can find no King, no  
 Pious Person, in all the Bible, that ever harboured or beheld  
 them heretofore) But likewise the Patterns of Constantine, Theo-  
 dosius, Leo, Anthemius, Justinian, Valentinian, Valens, Gratian,  
 Charles the Great, Theodoricus, Henry the Third Emperor of that  
 Name, Philip Augustus King of France, our Famous Queen Eli-  
 zabeth, and her Council, with our London Magistrates and Uni-  
 versities in her Reign; who all Suppressed, Inhibited Stage-  
 Plays, Sword-Plays and Actors, as Unsufferable Miſchiefs in any  
 Christian State or City. To these I might add Ludovicus the  
 Emperor, who, by his publick Edicts, agreeing Verbatim with  
 the Seven and Eight fore-quoted Canons of Synodus Turonenses,  
 p. 589, 590. Inhibited all Ministers, all Clergy-Men, from Stage-  
 Plays, Hunting, Hawking, &c. Together with Charles the Ninth,  
 and Henry the Third of France; who by their Solemn Laws and  
 Edicts, prohibited all Stage-Plays, all Dancing on Lords Days, or  
 other solemn Annual Festivals, under Pain of Imprisonment, and  
 other Penalties, to be Inflicted by the Magistrates: And our  
 own most Gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, who, together  
 with the whole Court of Parliament, in the First Year of his  
 Highnesses Reign, Enacted this most Pious Play-Condempning  
 Law, Intituled, *An Act for Prohibiting of divers Abuses commit-  
 ted on the Lord's Day, called Sunday: Forasmuch as there is no-  
 thing more acceptable to God, than the true and sincere Worship of  
 him, according to his Holy Will; that the holy keeping the Lord's  
 Day, is a principal part of the true Worship of God, which in very  
 many places of this Realm, hath been, and now is, prophaned and  
 neglected, by a Disorderly sort of People, in Exercising and Frequent-  
 ing Bear-baiting, Bull-baiting, Enterludes, Common Plays,  
 and other Unlawful Exercises and Pastimes.*

P. 717. If then all these Pagan, these Christian Nations, Re-  
 publicks, Emperors, Princes, Magistrates, have thus abandoned,  
 censured, suppressed Plays and Players, out of a long Experimental  
 Knowledge of their many vicious lewd Effects: Or are we ashamed  
 to be like our Ancestors, in Judgment, in Opinion, as we are in



'Touſure, Complement, Habit and Attire, in this *Age of Novel-*  
 'ties, which likes of Nothing that is old or common; (*though*  
 'such things commonly are best of all) that we thus undervalue the  
 'Resolutions of all former Ages, in this Case of *Plays* and *Players*,  
 'preferring our own Wits and Luſts before them? O let us be  
 'aſhamed now, at laſt to Countenance, to Plead for that, which  
 'the very beſt, the wiſeſt Heathens, yea, Chriſtian Nations, States  
 'and Magiſtrates, of all ſorts, have thus branded, and caſt out,  
 'as Lewd, as Vicious, as Abominable, in the very higheſt degree:  
 'And let us now ſubmit our Judgments, our Practice, Luſts, and  
 'Fooliſh Fancies, to their deliberate, mature, experimental Cen-  
 'ſures; Abominating, Condemning *Plays* and *Players*, if not Exiling  
 'them our Cities, Coaſts and Country, as all theſe have done;  
 'Arming our ſelves with peremptory Reſolutions againſt all fu-  
 'ture *Stage-Players*.

And in his *Epistle Dedicatory* the 2d. to ſhew what's ſaid is no Ficti-  
 'ous Novelty, or Conceited Singularity, he ſaith, 'It hath the Concur-  
 'rent Teſtimony, the Unanimous Reſolution, of ſundry Texts of  
 'Scripture, of the whole Primitive Church and Saints of God,  
 'both before and under the Law and Goſpel, the Canons of  
 'Fifty Five ſeveral Oecumenical, National, Provincial Synods  
 'and Councils, of divers Ages and Countries; together with the  
 'Canonical, the Imperial Conſtitutions of the Apoſtles them-  
 'ſelves, of Emperors, Popes, and other Biſhops, the Works  
 'of Seventy One Fathers, and Ancient Chriſtian Writers, of  
 'Chiefeſt Note, from our Saviour's Nativity, to the Year 1200.  
 'the Suffrages of above One Hundred and Fifty Chriſtian Au-  
 'thors, of all ſorts, from the Year 1200. to this preſent; the  
 'Sentence of Forty Heathen Philoſophers, Orators, Hiſtorians,  
 'Poets; together with the Play-Condemning Laws and Ediſts  
 'of ſundry Chriſtian, yea, Pagan Nations, Republicks, Emperors,  
 'Princes, Magiſtrates, in ſeveral Ages; with the Statutes, Ma-  
 'giſtrates, Universities, Writers and Preachers of our own Re-  
 'nowned Kingdom, to back, to ſecond them in all particulars;  
 'who have long ſince paſſed this heavy Censure againſt *Stage-*  
 'plays, That they are the very Works, the Pomps, Inventions,  
 'and chief Delights of the Devil, which all Chriſtians ſolemnly  
 'Abjure in their Baptiſm, the moſt peſtilent Corruption of all  
 'Men's, (eſpecially Young Men's) *Minds* and *Manners*; the chief  
 'Fomenters of all *Vice* and *Wickedneſs*; the greateſt Enemies of  
 'all

all *Vertue, Grace and Goodness*; the most mischievous Plagues  
 that can be harboured in *Church or State*; yea, Lewd, Infernal  
 Pastimes, not Tolerable among Heathens, not Sufferable in any  
 well-ordered Christian Republick; not once to be haunted or  
 applauded by any Civil Vertuous Persons, who are either  
 mindful of their Credits, or of their own Salvation: Which,  
 as it controls the gross Mistake of divers Voluptuous, Pagan-  
 izing Christians in our Days, who dote on *Stage-Plays*, as  
 the most Laudable, Generous, if not Necessary Recreations, so  
 it should now at last Engage all Christians for ever to abandon  
 them, as the very best of Saints, of Pagans, have done in former  
 Ages. Alas, what Goodness, what Profit do Men reap from  
*Stage-Plays*, that should any ways Engage their Affections to  
 them? Do they not *Enrage* their Lusts, *Add Fire and Fuel*  
 to their Unchaste Affections, *Deprave* their Minds, *Corrupt* their  
 Manners, *Cauterize* their Consciences, *Obdurate* their Hearts,  
*Multiply* their heinous Transgressions, *Consume* their Estates, *Mis-*  
*spend* their Time, *Canker* their Graces, *Blast* all their Vertues,  
*Interrupt* their Studies, *Indispose* them to Repentance, and true  
 Godly Sorrow for their Sins; make all God's Ordinances in-  
 effectual to their Spiritual Good; draw down the Guilt of sun-  
 dry Play-House-Abominations on their Persons; Incorporate  
 them into Lewd and Ungodly Company; and, without Repen-  
 tance, Damn their Souls? Do they not Dishonour their most  
 Holy God, Abuse their most Blessed Saviour sundry ways,  
 Blaspheme and Grieve God's Holy Spirit, Prophane the Sacred  
 Scriptures, and the Name of God; Deride and Jeer Religion,  
 Holiness, Vertue, Temperance, Grace, Goodness, with all Re-  
 ligious Vertuous Persons; Advance the Devil's Sceptre, Service,  
 Kingdom, by Sowing, by Cherishing the Seeds of *Atheism, Heathen-*  
*ism, Prophaness, Incontinency, Voluptuousness, Idleness*, yea, all kind of  
*Wickedness*, in their Actors and Spectators Hearts.

And it's my Hearty Desire to God, That all *Just and Pious*  
 Inclinations and Resolutions in the QUEEN, may be Effectually  
 put in *Practice*; and the Eminent Dangers, which her Kingdom,  
 and true Protestant Religion, are in this Juncture threatned with,  
*Prevented*; and the heavy and severe Judgments of God, *Diverted*;  
 and the Dishonour of the Christian Religion Professed, *Removed*;  
 God's Holy Law *Observed*, the Blessings of God *Enjoyed*, and the  
 QUEEN's Reign made *Prosperous*, and Her Subjects *Happy*.

*A Brief Cautional Conclusion, more Generally respecting  
a Spiritual and Inward Reformation.*

**A**S the true Intent of *Magistracy*, being a *Divine Ordinance*, is for the *Punishment* and *Terror* of *Evil-doers*, and *Praise* of *them that do well*; and, so far as their Power extends, to work an *outward Reformation* from manifest *Wickedness*, and gross *Provocations*: So it is the Work of *Christ*, by his *Light*, *Grace*, and good *Spirit*, to work an *Inward* and *Effectual Reformation* in *Peoples Hearts*; and as *Sovereign Lord* over the *Conscience*, to bring them to *keep a Conscience void of Offence towards God, and all Men*: For it is He only, that *searcheth the Heart*, can work this *Inward Reformation*, which doth Remove the Occasion of these *Outward Laws* and *Penalties*, which were added because of *Transgression*.

I therefore do earnestly desire, That all, who Believe there is a God, and profess Faith in Him, and his dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; and own the Holy Spirit, that proceeds from the *Father* and the *Son*, and is *poured forth in this day upon all Flesh*, according to *God's Promise*, may Receive and Learn thereof; that thereby all may not only Know what is *Good*, and what their *Duty* is towards *God*; but be Enabled to the *Faithful Performance*, and *Sincere Discharge* thereof: It's for that end, God (that requires us to *Love, Fear, and Serve Him*) hath been pleased to bestow it upon All, that so they may be Enabled to *do his Will*, and in neglect thereof, be left without *Excuse* in the *Great Day of Account*. For had he given Man a *Law* and *Command*, and not afforded him that which was sufficient to Abilitate him to *keep* and *observe* the same, Man might have some *Excuse*; but it is not so, and therefore he *justly Punishes* them that do not keep his holy *Law* and *Command*.

It's very observable in Holy Writ, and ought Seriously to be Considered by all that own the *Divine Authority* thereof, That ever since the *great Creator of all Things*, the *most High God*, made Man in his own *Image of Righteousness*, and gave to him his *holy Law* and *Command*, that the *Breach* and *Violation* thereof by Man hath been the Cause of all the great *Calamities* and severe *Judgments*

Judgments, which the Righteous God hath brought upon the Children of Men, in the several Ages of the World, unto this Day : Some of which, this Nation, and other parts of the *Queen's* Dominions, have been large Sharers of, by *Pestilence, Wars, Fire,* and particularly *Famine* in *Scotland*, not many Years since.

For Prevention of which, for the future, I humbly Pray Almighty God, *that hath the Hearts of all Men in his Hand*; That He would turn every one, both High and Low, from the Evil of their Ways, and Abomination of their Doings, and Incline their Hearts to keep his *Law*, and bring them to Learn of his *Grace*, which appears unto them, (and came by Jesus Christ, his dear Son, whom all ought to hear and obey) that they may be taught, not only to *deny all Ungodliness*; but through his Sufficient Grace, may be enabled to *refrain* from, and *abandon* all *Vice, Prophaness* and *Immorality*, whatsoever; and may come, by his holy Spirit, to know their Hearts, and all their Members, mortified from all Worldly and Carnal Lufts; that they may, in all things, obey his Blessed Will, through the same, his dear Son Jesus Christ.

Now the Way for a General Reformation of *Manners*, and *Amendment of Life*, is for every one, of what *Rank, Quality, or Degree* soever, to Love and Learn of that *Spirit, Grace and Truth*, that is come by *Christ*, and to Believe in him; for then will they truly know *God* to be their *Father*, *Christ* their *Saviour*, and this *Holy Spirit* their *Sanctifier*, from all *Vicious, Prophane, Immoral, Ungodly Ways and Practises*, and *Dissolute Living*: And so to avoid that, which not only the *Queen*, her *Royal Predecessors*, the *Parliament*, the *Twenty Nine Lords*, *Nine Bishops*, and *Seven Judges* by Name, have Cautioned against, and Discountenanced; but all that also, which is *highly Displeasing*, and *greatly Provoking* to *Almighty God*.

Let not therefore any, *High* or *Low*, think it's enough to Testify against these *Abominations*, and to say within themselves, They have *God* to their *Father*, *Christ* for their *Saviour*, the *Holy Ghost* for their *Sanctifier*, and that they Believe therein, and Profess the *Christian Religion*, and *dislike* these things; and yet either *Continue* therein, or *Connive* thereat, and *Encourage* or *Countenance* (by their own *Example*) such, or any of these *Evils*: For thereby they will the more *Provoke God*, *Incur his Displeasure*, *Scandalize* the *Christian Religion*, and *Contract* the greater *Guile* upon their own *Souls*: And if they forsake not their *Sins*, and unfeignedly Re-  
pent

pent thereof, and amend their Ways, and put away the Evil of their Doings from before the Eyes of Him, that Knows their Thoughts, Records their Actions, and will most certainly bring every Work to Judgment, with every Secret Thing, and Reward every one according to their Works; and those that live in, and love their Evil Ways, and dye in their Sins and Unbelief, shall know a being Punished with Everlasting Destruction from the Presence of the Lord, and Glory of his Power, for ever; and have their Portion in Eternal Misery, where the Worm never dyeth, nor the Fire never goes out; where there is Weeping, Wailing, and Gnashing of Teeth, for ever and ever.

Therefore it's my Tender Counsel and Advice, in the Love of Him, that would have all Men to be saved; and in the Love of Him, that Died for every Man, and Rose again, That every one, whilst they have time here, (which is both short and uncertain) would mind the inward Convictions, and secret Reproofs, of that Spirit, which Christ said, shall Convince the World of Sin; A Manifestation of which Spirit is given to every one to profit withal; and who-soever have not this Spirit, are no true Christians; nor can any be the Children, or Sons of God, but those that are Born of, and Led by this Holy Spirit; neither can any be Led into all Truth, but by this Spirit; nor have a part in Christ, unless they be Washed and Sanctified thereby.

Therefore I earnestly Intreat all, That these things might have their due Weight, and deliberate Consideration; and that there may be a hearty and sincere Desire, to Answer the Law of God, to Keep his holy Commands, to Discharge our Duty to Him, to Love, Fear, and Serve Him, to know Peace with him, to Enjoy his Blessing, to Honour his dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to Observe his Doctrine, to Answer our Christian Profession, to make the holy Scriptures our Rule of Faith and Practice; which say, Finally Brethren, whatsoever things are True, whatsoever things are Honest, whatsoever things are Just, whatsoever things are Pure, whatsoever things are Lovely, whatsoever things are of good Report; if there be any Vertue, and if there be any Praise, think on these things; for they certainly are such that Christians ought to follow.

And if the Nation expect God's Blessings, and that his severe Judgments should be Averted, let not those things, that are neither Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, or of good Report, that have no Vertue or Praise in them, be practised, given way to, or frequented.

quented by any, as *Stage-Plays, Bull and Bear-baitings, Drolleries, Comedies, Tragedies, Dicing, Revellings, Drunkenness, or any Vice or Immoralities* whatsoever; for they are contrary to the *Law and Commands of God, the Mind of Christ, the Doctrine of the Christian Religion*, and ought therefore to be carefully and diligently avoided, by all that make Profession thereof, and have any regard to the Good of their Souls; for no Enormities ought to be Countenanced or Tolerated by *Christian Governours*, but Excluded, Censured, and totally Suppressed; as I humbly hope the *Queen*, and her *Parliament* will, that they may prevent, what in them lies, all those Disorders and Disorderly sort of People, Exercising themselves in such things, and Frequenting *Play-Houses, Bear-baitings, Bull-baitings, &c.* And if all would receive and learn of the *Spirit and Grace of God* in their own Hearts, they would be taught to deny all *Vice, Immorality and Prophaness* whatsoever; and then the *Christian Religion* would appear in its Lustre, and the Professors thereof, would in Life, Practice and Conversation, shine in their several Stations; so that others seeing their good Works, might glorifie God in their Behalf. And the way for this *General Reformation* to be throughly Effected, is, as I have said, for all to Receive and Live in the *Spirit of Christ*, whom they Profess, and to Walk therein; for then they shall not fulfil the *Lusts of the Flesh*, nor be found in any of the *Works thereof*, which Offend God, Dishonour his *Holy Name*, and are a Scandal to the true *Christian Religion*, and Grieve *God's Holy Spirit*, and bring *Death and Damnation* upon them that live and die therein.

Oh therefore! that every one, that Professes *Faith in God*, and in our Lord *Jesus Christ*, and in his *Holy Spirit*, may not only so do, and pray for the *Spirit*, but also receive the same, and give up to the Dictates and Conduct of it: Which is the hearty Desire and fervent Prayer of him, that truly wisheth the Welfare and Salvation of all People: And that the *Queen*, and her *Parliament*, with all her *Subjects*, may always be found in that which will tend to Her and Their both *Temporal and Eternal Happiness*.

London, The 10th of the 12th Month, 1702.

John Feild.

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E R R A T A.

Title-Page, for to revenge Wrath, read a Revenger to execute Wrath. P. 6. l. 13. r. Blessings.

F I N I S.









