REMARKES
UPON A
PAMPHLET
Stiled, A Letter to a
Dissenter, &c.

In another Letter *to the same* Dissenter.

SIR,

AN highly applauded *Pamphlet* fell into my hand, at that instant when I was sealing my last Letter to you, relating to the *Penal Laws and Tests*, I then purposed to tell you my thoughts thereof in a Postscript, but being diverted till the Post was gone, and yours of the 8th Instant mentioning the thing, this comes to tell you, that I have slightly run it over, and do perceive the *Wordy Author* designs thereby to allure the *Dissenters* to a Contempt and Rejection of the *Kings* benigne Purpose to them. Its Title, and another Circumstance, *your early notice of it*, inclines me to conclude that it was wrote to you; whether so or not; I shall briefly Remarque upon it. The *great Man* sets out floridly; As a *Modish* Person, he accosts the poor *Dissenter* by way of *Address*. The Courtship seems to me sudden and surprizing, and I suspect the Design, for I take it to be something *Judas-like*, for one of the *Epistlers Figure* and *Spirit*, to approach a *Mechanick*, and a *Schismatick* to boot, in the humble way of *Hat and Knee*. But he doubts not of kind reception, provided that his

Dissenter will take his Word, when he affirms, th
neither *a Coward, nor a designing or freetfull Man.* I
had put his Name to his Letter, because some will hav
the *Author* is a Person so transcendently *Haughty* an
tious, that he little regards what, or whom he Sacrific
he but become *head of a party.* But,

If he gains not the Point, by the glorious *Characte*
he ascribes to himself, his *reasons* must undoubtedl
conceits) win him the Day; his *friendship* comman
to allow them to pass Muster, for he pledges his W
the time of day, disposes him to *Charity*, therefore in
of time, you are neither to call into Question his
Honesty, or Affection; *a most lucky period.*

In confidence that I have at least an equal title
Friendship, his being but newly contracted, and o
Storms hath tryed; I shall, in my old plain-dealing
you, observe, that the *Gentlemans* stock both of C
Truth is very suddenly exhausted, for he instantly
his *Dissenters account* both the *Exclusion and Rebellion*
the Fact so, and the Brat laid at the right Door; W
this high *Pretender to Loyalty*, check in any *Delinquen*
sul Resentment of his Majesties *Forgiveness?* But,

Should the *Fanatick* (to avoid wrangling with t
of England) agree to make an equal Partition with h
mentioned Crimes, and their deserved shame?
would far exceed his due share: Then will it be
with *her breeding, and superlative Vertue*, to yeild *hi*
nour of all the *Repentance and Confession.*

In the next place your *Friend craves audience*, an
the Complement, that he yet *hopes you in your Wi*
you be ware of New Friends (a very pertinent caution, you
ship with him being yet in the blossom) and

He bespeakes you to be a *prudent Christian*, a
hazard the publick Safety, by the desire of Ease or Reve
again.

To enforce the first *(viz.)* that you are to *suspect new Friends*, he insinuates, that you are not to be carried over, *by smooth Language now put on to engage you*, by the way, the expression intending to insinuate *a cheating Design*, had been as well *worded* (Words (with abundance of spite) being mainly what fills the Paper now before me) had it said, putting off of smooth Language, or making what is Gilded over, to pass as Current Coyn; but whether off or on be best, in this place; in the next, the *Gentleman* doffing his Clothes, personates an enraged slighted *Mistress* (or *Rival*) and tells you, that *she* (for to follow our Amorous Author, we must for a time change the Sex) had the *the first offer*, and you have ouly the coy Ladies leavings. It is then evident (and shall be anon further made out) that *she held a parly with your new Lover*, ay, but if you will credit her, she saw his *Deformity*, and therefore *rejected* him. I doubt you will get little by enquiring of the *Sqeamish Dame*, whether punctillios of Honour, hopes of higher Terms, or the Devils Pride and Envy, did not occasion her rash refusal, and whether she doth not too late repent it? for Questions of this kind do rarely receive direct and honest Answers. I shall therefore according to my wonted freedom, exhort you to *stand upon your Guard*, that she may not play you a trick, and then reproach you. He now (for the Aggressor in Love, must be concluded to wear Breeches) *makes court to you*, examine carefully, I beseech you, whether you are *his Choice*, *and not his Refuge*, if the last, it will be your wisdom to make sure terms with him, and allowing the *Gentleman* to mean as he would be taken, you have his own advice, that *you are not to yeild over hastily to new Friends*, upon their bespeaking you fairly. He tells you, that *you cannot reasonably flatter your self that there is* (with your Lover) *any inclination to you*: I incline to think as he doth, if he takes it, that beding together is to be the next thing in the case, (then 'tis probable that no Love is lost) but I have

 heard,

heard, that a Person disappointed in his first Amou
after cold, and indifferent, in Affection; and there
the Church of England affirms, that she *refused* to
a Bargain, I will believe, that *a chast Dissenter*, m
the same Kingdom, with the *Romanist*, without t
of a *Rape*.

They (the Papists, saith the Letter), *never pretend*
you any Quarter, but to usher in Liberty to themselves,
shelter. Well then, you are out of danger of being
Sword, you may have *Quarter*, a Grace refused y
Church of England. Ay, may you say, but what are t
why, such as are very equall, and highly reasona
Parties have been long and sorely galled by the *C*
Church of England. The *Papists* will now help to
them, and they call for your aid; I pray what harm
and why so much noise against it?

And it proceeds; *Nay, at this very hour they can*
bear in the height of their Courtship, to let fall hard wo
so little is nature to be restrained. The Gentleman
say,

Pudet hæc opprobria nobis,
Et dici potuisse, & non potuisse refelli.

You and I do know, *at this very hour*, and so do
names of *dignified Sons of the Church of* England,
that the Devil will have both Papist and Dissenter.
sure is none of the softest Language.

But you are told in the next Paragraph, *That L*
Infallibility are the two most contrary things in the Wo
firm, that it is beyond contradiction true, that
Church of England has run to the Arguments of tha
which claims *Infallibility*; to justifie her self, in her
to extirpate Dissenters; and (*right or wrong*)
been Ruined, had not the present *Kings* Clemen
them.

But *the Principles of the Roman Church allow not Liberty to Hereticks.* Nor do those of *the English Church to Schismaticks*; such she esteems her *Dissenters*, and as such, she (when in Power) constantly treats, and labours to destroy them.

If so, the argument of *present hugging, in order to the better squeezing hereafter*, vanishes; and *the seting up Bills, and offering Plaisters for tender Consciences*; may deserve as great regard from *the Romish*, as from *the Lambeth Church*, and in our present conjuncture much more.

The Gentleman goes on to tell you. *The other day you were Sons of Belial, now you are Angels of Light.* And he asserts, *that to come so quick, from one extream to another, is such unnatural a motion*, that you are to look to your self. Pray do so, and in doing it, remember, that *in the word of a King there is Power*; and that *the Church of England*, which now hath none, to hurt or save (*till* her present exigence extorted a Complement) stiled you *a Child of Darkness.*

In the next place *the Men of Taunton and Tiverton* (for sound or Jingle sake, no doubt) are hook'd in, and their *Loyalty* ridiculed: notwithstanding in this our *Church-Mans* opinion, that renders them vile, it would not offend a good Subject, to see others imitate them, and tho *H.* (at this day) *non est litera*; methinks *Hull* and *Hallifax* o a Northern-man, should chime every whit as well as *T.* and *T.* of the *West*; wherefore, pray prevail with your new Friend (who will not break with you in trifles) to write a second Letter Northward, and if your Intrigue with him continues till the return of the general Post, *(for we are admonished to have a very tender regard to Horses)* I doubt not but he will be obliged to tell you that the worthy Inhabitants of those Places, have the courage to *vye Loyalty* with any of his Majesties Subjects. If I mistake them, *Libera me.*

Now our *Valiant* author (*the West being vanquished*) points *Southward*, and picks a Quarrel with the *poor Quakers.* This may

may well surprise you, I'm sure it did me at first s
you and I believe they will not draw the *Sword*,
encounter a *Goliah*; therefore you may say, certainly
them to *a fearless Man*; ay, but the *Gentleman* now
them, resolves to spoil an *English Proverb*, and to
would monopolize *Wit*, and the *Quaker* he says has
speak *sence*, and which is worse, he becomes *manner*
a degree, that this your new Friend (*who grumbles for*
Court) begins to suspect himself in some danger
post-posed; for the *Quaker* having given the King *de*
for his *Protection*, may, for ought he knows, become
(*Sir*) you are now to believe the Gentleman ha
Poyson, for he tells you, that *no sharpness is to b*
where healing only is intended; and he promises herea
nothing to expose particular Men, how strong soever the
may be, or how clear the proofs to make it out; he might as
said, Now *Gentlemen Dissenters* look to your hits,
been *Complicens*, provoke me not to detect our
please me or all shall out, (but begging his Pardon) he
for himself, and see what follows; 'tis in friend
for Arguments sake, and to promote the proposed *he*
honest well-meaning Man, (*not willing to tell tale*
whispers you, *poor deluded Dissenter*, in the Ear;
knowledg there is Death in the Pot, *your Minister*
you are Sold, the Money is Paid, and you are mo
Betrayed.

Is not this said like a *Church of England Worthy*,
confined to this or that subdivision of Protestants, like
ged from *sharpness*, and who affects and intends *heali*
Hell it self furnish a more inveterate and malici
ation?

We remember the time, when some Men talk'd
ners in Parliament; they obliged the World with *a L*
who were reputed such, and if I mistake not, with

of him, who they said, *hired and paid them.*

The *Dissenter* now addressed to, for his own safety, ought to challeng this his *new Suiter*, for the Names of such *Ministers* as have made *the bargain and sale* suggested, and methinks his *Charity, and the warmth of his Affection*, should dispose him to gratifie such a modest and necessary Request; if it be refused I must conclude my Friend *so far gone in his Passion*, that he has wholly lost his Understanding, should this *Gentlemans Courtship* any longer *impress, or influence him.*

Now our *Author* falls with down right Blows upon the *Addressers*, and bestows bitter *Invectives* upon them, and upon the *Government* to boot; that part of his *Libel* deserves and probably will be reckoned for in *Westminster Hall*, therefore I shall shun the danger of becoming his *Accessary* by transcribing him.

Then he betakes himself to *Flattery*, and tells you, that *if you had to do with those riged Prelates who made it a matter of Conscience to give you the least Indulgence, but kept you at an uncharitable distance, and even to your more reasonable scruples continued stiffe and inexorable, the argument might be fairer on your side.*

I conclude then, that *your Argument* to accept of *Liberty* from the King, is no way *enervated:* Is here any sort of proof, that *Prelacy* has changed its thoughts, and put on tenderness to you; you may not trust this *undertaker* in a thing so valuable as is that, now discussed, *the Church of England* cannot intend well, or use you so, (*without incurring the guilt of Perjury as I have heard her say*) till she gives up her *Laws of force*, and you see that her *Zeal* to uphold them occasions this *great concussion in the Kingdom*, wherefore, I doubt she is not right; and your only sure way of dealing with her, seems to me to be, to *disarm her* by Act of *Parliament*, of every Weapon which the *Gospel* did not put into her hand, then I'm sure *She* can do no Mischief.

Reverend Mr *Baxter's* expectation was raised about twenty

six

ſix years ſince, by the ſame pretence, as now yours is t
after the then *Prelacy (which I am confident the preſe
diſown)* had long *triffled* with him and his worthy B
bout healing, in the *Savoy Conferences*; they found t
diſappointed and ſhamd: If the *Church* be as skilful in
as our Author would perſwade, ſhe was the mor
to hold the *Patient* ſo long in hand, as then ſhe did, a
to leave or make the *Wound* worſe then ſhe found it
I do find it abſolutely neceſſary to a good Chirurgion)
Spirit ſtill lives in our *Church-Men*, or it may in time t
turn again, and poſſeſs them; you have then no oth
conjure down the *evil Spirit of Perſecution*, but by a
the *Penal Laws*, that only can aſſure you, that *a ri*
ſhall not hereafter *deſtroy you*; and you have reaſon
Alarum at your Woers next harangue, *(Neſcit nox n
ti)* *She or He* (no matter which) *has enchantment*
*and can inſtantly put your Noſe out of joynt with your n
may look you Dead*; for you are told, that *at this ve
in the heat and glare of your preſent Sun-ſhine, the Chu
land can in a moment bring Clouds again, and turn the r
der upon your Heads, blow you off the Stage with a bre
would give but a ſmile or a kind word, the leaſt glimpſe o
pliance would throw you back into the ſtate of Suffering
upon you all the arrears of Severity which have accrued
time of this kindneſs to you.*

This is in truth *(my good Friend)* plain dealing, lo
ſelf therefore, and make your peace with her, or you
you believe her) for *Clouds, Thunder and Tempeſts* awa
ſhe ſaith) are at her command; *She* can at pleaſure ta
to her Power, add to your Yoke, and chaſtice you
pions, and that's not all; *She* can bring you to an *Aſt
ing*, laſh you for playing *Truant*, and exact what you
*in Arrear (this laſt diſcovery will undoubtedly porcure t
man an Addreſs of Thanks from* Doctors Commons, *f*

Dissenters are near two years Rent run, there) Nay, and to compleat your misery *(after all the Reckonings paid)* She can by her Excommunication, throw you, *with a quick hand* to Satan.

You may demand, what shall *poor I* do in this my great Strait? *Why*, as you love your Life keep out of her *Clutches*, *defy her*, and attone our English *Jupiter*, That he may not entrust his *Thunderbolts* in this mad Hand.

Be true, *I beseech you*, to your Interest, and deport your self so to the *King*, that your *new conciliated Friendship*, which she upbraids, and envies, may not be endangered.

I shall now give you a Reason or two, why you may justly suspect this *Gentleman*, now making Love to you in the Name of the *Church*. I find his Letter stuffed with *malitious and false Insinuations* against dissenting Ministers (amongst whom I never found a Knave) I will therefore hope that my telling *you* Truth, tho' to his Disparagement, will not be taken as a Breach of the Rules of good Manners.

If the *Church of England's Commissioners* in the present Treaty with you, have been tampering with those of the *Roman Communion*, and offering Terms for the Life of their dearly beloved *Penal Laws*: If they, to come a little closer, have proposed, That if the *Roman Catholicks* will not joyn with you, for the Repeal of those *Laws*, they shall be secured against any imaginary Danger from the *Test-Penalties*, in a succeeding *Reign*, by a *Mortgage* of the *Honours* and *Estates* also, of som *great Men* driving that Bargain. I say, should this be true, there's certainly Mischief in her Heart, and she will reveng your runing her into this *Incumbrance*, by *teaching you* hereafter, (as *Gideon* did the Men of *Succoth*) with *Briers and Thorns*.

If *She* hath her *Ambassadors at this very Hour*, treating an *Alliance* with the *Papists*, and proposing to yield them Liberty by *Act of Parliament*, with Exception of the *Fanatick*.

If these, or any others, should at this time, *prate and buz*

 Fears

Fears and Jealousies in your Ears, you are obliged to be deaf, upon pain of all the Mischief they intend you. The Church seems to tremble the bloody *Tyrant*, and seeing her Power reduced, she would be content for a time, to turn *Pedagogue*, and *whip Boys*, to keep her Hand in ure.

The Church *Plenipotentiary*, towards the close of his Letter, *points his Wrath* towards the *King and his Government*; And with *you*, he seems to descend to *calm* (but very *wickedly* intended) *Reasoning*. *It is with Regret that he beholds you disposed to quarrel the Church of* England *now she is upon the Brink of Suffering*; *'Tis very unkind in you, for she never persecuted the Dissenters, but by Direction, and as she was set on*: A bad Excuse, you know, is better than none. The *Gentleman* further insinuates (*and you are to believe him if you will*) That the taking away the *Penal Laws and Tests* (*the Bane of Religion, and of Liberty*) will put you under a Tyranny, and absolutely destroy you. In truth (*Sir*) were I in the *East Indies*, the sight of this lamentable Complaint would greatly move me, for I should doubt the Case of the *Church of England* to be very deplorable, but 'tis a great *Blessing* that all this is *Misrepresentation*, and *foul Slander*. The *King*'s Promise secures her of *Peace and Plenty*, and that *Act of Parliament* which shall secure you out of her *Paws*, may give her further *Security* if she wants it. This her *grim faced Representative*, seems to take his short and angry *Turns*, like the *Tower-Lyon*, and ever and anon *roares*; but 'tis not want, but a ravenous Appetite to *rend and tear*, that occasions all this *Wrath and Rage*: Nature will be Nature. Therefore you may tell the Church in your Excuse (for a reason of your Doings ought something to appease her toward you) in the language of the *Lepers*: (My *Distress* is great.) *If I sit still sit here, I dye, if the* Syrians *save me alive, I shall live; if they kill me I shall but dye.*

To *cokes* and work you off, from getting *Liberty of Conscience*,

science, from the only Hand which can dispense it: You are told that *some of the Church of* England *were Trimmers for enduring you, and the Maxim was, It is impossible for a Dissenter, not to be a Rebel.*

This *Gentleman* certainly thinks that you have forgot, who gave those *moderate Men* that Name of Reproach, therefore you may tell him, That to your Knowledg the *Church* esteemed them but *spurious Sons*, and could not endure them, because they gave you a good Look; you need not go to *Gloucester* to make this out; but if you should let me engage you to take *Salisbury* in your way, and enquire there, how the Church treated a *Protestant Reconciler*. If you do so, pray use your Interest with her, and try whether in this *height of her Caresses, she* will demonstrate the sincerity of her Affection to you, by recomending it to that *Doctor* to *recant* his *Recantation*.

As to the *Maxim* cited; *It is impossible for a Dissenter not to be a Rebel.* I am certain it was delivered from a Pulpit, nearer to *Ludgate* then that of *Lincoln's-Inn*.

So much for the *Gentleman's angry and whedling* part; Now I bring you to his *Politicks:* and the *Dissenters* are meer *Fools*, if they trust not to his most wise *Conduct*, for he saith *you* (silly soul) *act very unskilfully against your visible Interest*; this were to purpose indeed, if made out, but the Mischief of it is, the powerful *Argument of Interest* turns against him; The *Dissenters Liberty* may now be certainly *established*, but, saith the *Church*, I see my *Babylon Days* at hand, put on a little Patience, and then *you and I will treat about the Matter*. Were you in the Extremity of the *Stone*, and sure of receiving present Ease by an *infallible Chirurgion*, your next *Neighbour*, who tells you his *Price*, and ever *made good his Word*; how would you entertain that *Friend's Counsel*, who should say, let me advise you to wait a little, for I hear that *Germans* excell all others in this Case, and about Six Months hence I may bring you one from *Vienna* to try his *Skill*: But to be plain with you, when he comes, *he will*

will leave you as he finds you, if you break with him
but I do think he will not be *unreasonable*, for he h
good *Character*: I know you have an Answer at Hand
(without leading you) I pray transmit it to this y
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A Word or two more, and I have done; He
Word, That *the Church of* England *is convinced of*
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nature of his *Commission*, I should be glad to see *her* p
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themselves) *he* doth it so *ukwardly* in this Paper; t
plain, I suspect 'tis *insincere*; for he *contends*, and
the height of Passion, to uphold her *Penal Laws*, and
other Quarrel with her, but about *Thunderbolts.*

He proceeds, *The Parliament, when ever it meeteth,*
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that we could not hit upon it sooner; *I do* hope and *be*
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find him in good humor, when you see him; let him k
me, *(with my service)* that my *suffrage* shall never he
any of his *Spirit* and *Principle* into the House of *Com*
admonishes you not to *misapply your anger*, allow anoth
to exhort you, not to *misplace* your *Voice*, when the
please to call a *Parliament*, and you will oblige you
me.

Septemb. 10 } *Adieu,*
1687. }

Yours Affectionat
T. V

F I N I S.

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