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The *VINDICATION* of His Grace
James, Duke of Monmouth,

With the rest of the *NOBLE PEERS*;
 In an Answer to a Printed Letter to a Noble
 Peer of the Realm, about his late Speech and Petition to His Majesty. 42.

WE have gotten a trick of late of Lettering both States-men and States Affairs, and no sooner can a Peer or Peers of the Realm, or other publique Magistrates thereof, discharg'd their Duties and Consciences to their King and their Country, but they are pelted with Letters publicly printed, and spread abroad (what in them lies) to make such Noble Peers and Patriots of their Country odious, and to dishearten others for the future in meddling with publique Affairs, and from discharging their Duty: but as we hope all Good men will not be any ways discourag'd by these cunning shifts of Faction and *Popish* Adversaries, so it is but fitting, that something by way of Reply should be returned to these sort of Flying Pamphlets for the sake of the Vulgar.

And tho' the Speech of the Earl of *Essex*, printed and published, shews the Heart of an Honest man, and of one that loves truly His Majesty, and also his Country, and seems to be made with all sincerity and Loyalty, that one would think Malice it self (considering also the Noble Peer himself that spake it) could not have prickt out Evil where so much Good was intended, nor fling so much blame upon so many noted Peers, Wise men, and Loyal Subjects; yet some of the Faction and *Popish* party have undertaken an Answer, to which in few words we Reply, That since at the first dash, *L. S.* gloosingly acknowledges the Noble Peers parts and prudence, and his Fathers Loyalty, (he might if he had pleased said also his own, which certainly has been untainted, being intrusted with the greatest and most Noble Trust His Majesty has to bestow) he might have held his peace, and silently made to himself a more favourable Construction, than thus publicly to render both him and the rest of the Noble Peers who accompanied the Delivery of the Petition, and Signed it, both Faction and Disloyal, and to endeavour to render it of so strange a nature, and of so ill an Aspect: but it seems this Letter tells you, 'tis because he sees his Sovereign so neerly concerned, the first part of his Reason, which is the very thing that caused both the Noble Peers Speech, & the Noble Peers Petitioning, for had not His Majesty been so neer concern'd, they had doubtless never been so ready to appear in it: but the second part of the Reason of this Gentleman's Letter is, because many do Construe this to be,

find his many so few, that they would be ashamed to shew their faces; for there are far more by many thousands, that can see no such threatening his Majesty, as this Letterer would make the world believe, and which he has no ways shew'd in any Paragraph of his Letter, but these are the usual blinds of such people, who whilst they intend mischief and disperse malice, cry out, *The safety and Good of his Majesty.*

In the next place, the Letterer is sorry for the Noble Peers weak observation, but I am not sorry to see his weak Remarks, nothing to the purpose, and nothing pertinent to the Noble Peers Speech which ushers in the humble (no ways threatening) Petition of these Peers, which is, to shew his Majesty the ill fate and unlucky Consequences of *Parliaments* call'd at a remote distance from the Capital City of the Land, instances of which, the Noble Peer renders to His Majesty, to make him sensible, as well as they of the Fatality of one now to be called at *Oxford*. But the Letterer asks him filily, if he had not observed as well how many have been fortunate elsewhere Convened? It had been well if he could have nam'd them, for no doubt the Noble peer could not find them on Records or Chronicles to be many, else he had not Enumerated the contrary, nor our Letterer omitted them all, to tell us that if the Long *Parliament* had been removed to *York*, it might have prevented the evil Consequences that follow'd; but I doubt the Letterer is as much out in his Politiques, as in his Remarques, for had not his Majesty removed himself from his Capital City, many wise men believe he had been safe, notwithstanding that *Parliament*, nor had a Selected company of Rebels had the power to do what they afterwards did, for certainly it cannot be said to be the *Parliament* that committed that Barbarous Act of murdering the King, when most of its Members were secluded by the Tyrant.

But the Letterer Raves and Rails against the Noble City of *London*, calling it a place of *Factionous Cabals*, where so many *Pernicious Contrivances* are Hammer'd, and is angry at his *Common-Council*, terming them *Mechanicks*, that leave their Shops and Trades to meddle with Government, and all this for petitioning their King. He shews what Spirit he is of; *London* is a great Eye-sore in the eyes of our *Popish* Adversaries, witness, so many Fires they have inkindled in it, and therefore 'tis no wonder they still endeavour to lay all

others perhaps as knowing, believe the Rise of our late Troubles, came not from the City of London, but sprung from another Fountain, which is not here our Business to show.

But we need not justify the City of London, for the Letterer in his very next Paragraph, tells the Noble Peer, *That the ground of the Misarrriages of these Parliaments, by him mentioned, was the popular fears and jealousies, fomented by ambitious and discontented Grandees*; so that it is not their Sitting at London that caused those Misarrriages; and it is for this very end, that these noble Peers now petitioned his Majesty, that seeing there is now on foot, more than ever, Popular fears and jealousies, and if there be such great Men (as the Letterer seems to hint) now, that foment these fears and jealousies under hand, and endeavour to raise strife and Debate, and to cause War and trouble, that since in those days of the like troubles, those Parliaments succeeded ill, being called in places remote from London, therefore it would please his Majesty for that very Reason, to call them at the usual place; so that here the Letterer does but help forward the Noble Peers Argument, for they were not so ignorant or superstitious, to put the fatality on the City or place where they were called, but on the *Inconveniencies and Evils* that ensued thereby, being at the distance from the Head, and (if there be those *faitious Spirits* in the City of London, as the Letterer would insinuate) in giving the greater Liberty by this distance of the Parliament, of contriving and plotting *Mischief and Sedition*.

In the next Paragraph the *Seditious Letterer* peeps a little out of his Vizor, and shews his ugly malicious Face, and tells you *That the cause of Henry the II's Troubles, was the Son of the said K. incited to Rebel against his Father, one more contagious than others, because he was no Bastard, but tied to the Crown*; which by the way, I think made him the more inexcusable; but we see where he would clinch his foul fangs, against something that is yet in dispute, and is not for us to meddle with, and little became his foul mouth to reflect. He tells us next, *That the Troubles of Henry III. arose from the Civil Wars raised by his Barons, under the colour of redressing the Peoples Grievances, and pretence of the Liberty of the Subject*; how far that was true, may be seen by his quoted *Baker*, tho' we think the parallel of those Times and ours do not run equal, for there is much difference between *Humbly Praying*, and *Rebellious Fighting*. As for that of *Henry VI. We* that not enquire, whether it was the sins of his *Usurping Predecessors*, or his *own*, that caused his ruine, we'll take the Letterers Word for it, but that the parallel lies betwixt his R. H. and

rently brand others for *Factions*, and Haters of the *Kings Government*, and would endeavour to persuade the people to think so of such, whom privately they would hint at, that you might know their meaning by their gaping; but had this Episteller any certain proofs of any such Factious persons, driving on *Designs* against the *Government*, it had been but his Duty to have made them known. But I hope, and am almost assured, that in the List of those Noble Peers, and Petitioners, he will not be able to find any such.

But yet with much boldness, he in the next Paragraph notes them all for *Dissentions*, and says, *He has ground so to believe it, because they endeavour zealously to sollicite for the Phanaticks, endeavouring to unite them to the Church of England*: Who he means by *Phanaticks*, I know not, if all dissenting from the Church of England, the Body being great, and a Work endeavoured by the *Parliament*, and wished no doubt by the King, and formerly endeavoured by *K. James*, and *K. Charles* the first, that we might be united under one head in one *Body*, I think it were a good and pious work, and not to be objected as *Criminal* to those *Noble Peers*, and deserv'd not for that to be *branded with Dissention*. But yet it no ways appears, that these Noble Peers, ever made it their business, as I can hear of, to set upon that Work, unless when Members of the *Parliament* in the great Council of the Realm.

In the next our Episteller tells us, *If the King will arrest his Sacred Person at Oxford, among the Smords of the Papists, what need they fear*; And thereby would have the world suppose, tis only for themselves and their own Lives they are concern'd, but tho' *Self-preservation* be Natural to all Men, yet I dare aver, 'tis the meaning of these Noble Peers, not so much to shew the danger of their Lives being expos'd to the *Violences of the Papists*, as the Care they have for his Majesties, in whose safety all ours consists, and therefore tho' his Majesty be adventerous of his own Life, and perhaps believes not the Danger yet it well became these Noble Peers to be solicitous for His Majesties and their own safety, and to shew him the danger of it, by the *Parliaments* meeting at *Oxford*. As for his quibble and jeer at the Kings Evidence, I pass it by, onely by the Foot we may measure the *Hercules*, and find what kind of Spirit wrote this Letter.

I shall likewise pass by his Observations some Transactions preceeding the long *Parliament*, which he would parallel with these now foot, and making use of all those subsequent evils that followed thereupon. (a great

withstanding the Letterers *Wife Men*, there are of the Kingdom, on it and its Members; but not the blame, fault, plague, War, and DESTRUCTION

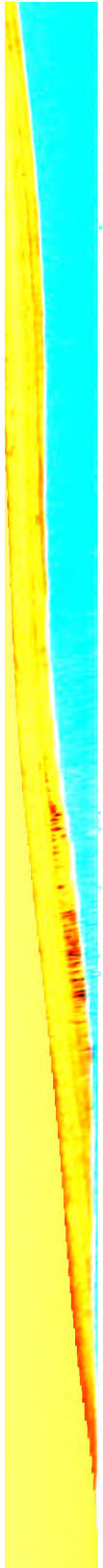
to much petitioning as threatening
to this I say, that I am of opinion, that if he
could raise the Voices of the Kingdom, he should





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Handwritten text, possibly a list or notes, written vertically on the left side of the page. The text is faint and difficult to read, but appears to contain several lines of information.

