

Two letters written in the year 1689 / by the Right Reverend Father in God, the present Lord Bishop of Rochester, to the Right Honourable the late Earl of Dorset, concerning his sitting in the Ecclesiastical Commission in the reign of K. James II.

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T W O

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LETTERS

Written in the Year 1689.

B Y T H E

Right Reverend Father in G O D,
The Present Lord Bishop of *Rochester*,

To the Right Honourable

The Late Earl of *Dorset*,

C O N C E R N I N G

His Sitting in the Ecclesiastical Com-
mission in the Reign of K. J A M E S II.



L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year M.DCC.XI.

T W O
LETTERS

Written in the Year 1689

BY THE

Right Reverend Father in God,

The Bishop of Rochester,

To His Honourable

The Lord Earl of Dorset,

CONCERNING

His stirring up the Ecclesiastical Com-
mission in the Reign of King James II.

L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year MDCCLXII



The First LETTER *from*
the Bishop of Rochester to
the Earl of Dorset and Mid-
dlesex, &c.

My LORD,

I Think I shou'd be wanting to my self at this time, in my own necessary Vindication, shou'd I forbear any longer to give my Friends a true Account of my Behaviour in the late Ecclesiastical Commission. Tho I profess, what I shall now say, I only intend as a reasonable Mitigation of the Offence I have given, not entirely to justify my Sitting in that Court; for which, I acknowledg, I have deservedly incur'd the Censure of many good Men; and I wish I may ever be able to make a sufficient Amends to my Country for it.

Yet thus much, my Lord, I can justly alledg for my self, That the Commission was made, and my Name put into it, altogether without my knowledg; when I happen'd to be at *Salisbury*, holding an Archiepiscopal Visitation with the Bishop of *Chichester*, and other Commissioners: Where, by God's Blessing, we compos'd several old Differences and Animosities, and restor'd Peace and Unity to that Church.

At my return from thence to *London*, I found I was appointed to be one in a new Commission: But I cou'd never see a Copy of it, nor did I ever hear its Contents, or know the Powers granted in it, till the time of its being publickly open'd at *Whitehall*; whither I was sent for, on purpose, in haste, that

very Morning, from my House in the Country; being just come home from a Confirmation, and from paying my Duty to her *Royal Highness* the Princess of *Denmark* at *Tunbridg*.

Upon the first publishing the Commission, I confess, thro my Ignorance in the Laws, I had little or no Objection in my Thoughts against the Legality of it; especially when I consider'd, that having past the Broad Seal, it must needs, according to my Apprehension, have been examin'd and approv'd by the King's learned Council in the Law, Men generally esteem'd of eminent Skill in their Profession. Besides, I was farther confirm'd (tho too rashly I grant) in my Error, when I saw two Gentlemen of the Long Robe, Persons of the greatest Place and Authority in *Westminster-Hall*, join'd with us; who, I should have thought, would never have ventur'd their Fortunes and Reputations, by exercising a Jurisdiction that was illegal.

And I believ'd I had reason to conclude, that this very Argument might prevail also with some others of the Temporal Lords that sat among us: Particularly the Earl of *Rochester* has often assur'd me, 'twas that which induc'd him to accept of the Commission; and that he did it, as I my self did, with a purpose of doing as much Good as we were able, and of hindring as much Evil as we possibly could, in that unfortunate Juncture of Affairs.

As for my own part, I was startled when I perceiv'd my Lord of *Canterbury* scrupled to be present with us; whose Example, 'tis true, I ought rather to have follow'd than the greatest Lawyers in all Matters of Conscience. Yet I hope his Grace will excuse me, if I declare, that I did not at first know he made a Matter of Conscience of it. Nor did I understand his Grace took Exception at the Lawfulness of the Commission it self, till after my Lord of *London* was cited, and had appear'd and answer'd, and the unjust Sentence was past against him.

For it was on the very day the Commission was open'd, immediately, as I remember, after it was read, that my Lord of *London* was inform'd against
for

for not suspending Dr. *Sharpe*: Which, tho it exceedingly surpriz'd me at first, yet observing with what Heat the Prosecution was like to be carry'd on against him, that very Consideration did the more incline me to sit and act there, that I might be in some Capacity of doing Right to his Lordship. And whether I did him any Service thro the whole Process of his Cause, I leave it to my Lord himself to judg. That I gave my positive Vote for his Acquittal, both the Times when his Suspension came in question, I suppose I need not tell the World.

Having thus, in the beginning of that Court, and the highest Ferment of it, freely discharg'd my Conscience, by endeavouring to clear my Lord of *London*, I must own I thenceforth unawares took a Resolution, which, how hurtful soever it may now prove to my self, yet, I am still apt to believe, did the Church of *England* no Disservice in the Main. My Design, by continuing longer among them, was to make sure of one Vote at least, and to do my Part, to the utmost of my small Interest and Ability, to lessen the Blow which I fear'd was coming on the Clergy, since it could not altogether be avoided.

And I was the more persuaded to take this Course, not only because the Legality or Illegality of the Commission seem'd at first rather a Moot-case, than a determin'd Point either way; divers of the principal Lawyers, as I was told, being divided in their Opinions concerning it; but also because I saw some other Persons were ready to fill my Chair there, as soon as it should be empty; Men of whose Principles and Practices I was so well aware, that I knew they would not have the same regard as my self for the Churches Preservation. And perhaps I might add this further for the Extenuation of my Fault, that I was not discourag'd by some grave and worthy Persons, for this very purpose, to keep in some longer time; but I forbear to name them, that I may not involve any good Man in my Infelicity.

However, upon these Motives I acted, and, in pursuance of this Design, God knows, I voted as long as I remain'd at the Board; where all my Opinions

nions were so contrary to the Humour of the Court, that I often thought my self to be really in as much hazard from the Commission it self, by my not complying, as any of my Brethren could be that were out of it.

I appeal to all that were acquainted with the Transactions there, whether ever I gave my Consent to any irregular or arbitrary Sentence; whether I did not constantly and firmly declare against every extravagant Decree. I could almost presume to affirm, that I was, as far as in me lay, some way or other, a common Solicitor, or Advocate for all that were unjustly prosecuted before them. And I might exemplify this beyond all Contradiction, if I should enumerate every particular Cause that came under their Cognizance.

After my Lord of *London* was sentenc'd, his Lordship knows, I was always upon the Watch to obstruct all farther Proceedings against him: Nay, his Lordship well remembers, I had once obtain'd to have his Suspension taken off, if he would but have made an ordinary Submission.

Then I was zealous for *Exeter-College*, in their Defence against Father *Petre*, in a Business of so great Importance, that if the College had been overcome in the Suit, that whole Society must soon have been abandon'd to Popery.

I did my utmost to oppose the violent Persecution upon the whole University of *Cambridg*, when the Vice-Chancellor was suspended his Office, and his Mastership of *Magdalen-College*; because a Popish Priest, who was one of the Missionaries to pervert the Scholars, was deny'd a Degree in their Convocation.

I faithfully assisted and serv'd *Christ-Church* in *Oxford*, when they were in danger of having new Statutes impos'd upon them, which would infallibly have laid open that Royal College, to the Ruin of their good Learning and Religion.

I absolutely resisted all the Alterations in the Statutes of *Sidney-College*, and all other Changes and Abrogations of Oaths, that were then made or design'd

sign'd in the Statutes of either University, for the advantage of Popish Priests and Students, and for the freer course of *Mandamus's* in their Favour.

I ever gave my Advice for all sorts of Business, to be return'd into the common course of Justice; as that all Ecclesiastical Matters should be refer'd back to the several Bishops from whose Dioceses the Complaints were brought; and that all Informations against Colleges and Hospitals should be recommitted to their proper Visitors.

I persisted unmoveable in my Dissent from every Vote that pass'd against *Magdalen-College* in *Oxford*; from their very first Citation before that Court, to the cruel incapacitating of the President and Fellows.

I could mention many other Particulars, wherein I successfully labour'd to relieve divers of the inferior and greater Clergy from Oppression; to prevent some from being call'd before us at all; to preserve others after they were accus'd by malicious Sycophants and Informers, that swarm'd then every where; Some in the Case of Tythes; some for pressing Churchwardens to take legal Oaths; some for not reading, some for preaching against the King's Declaration.

But there are two eminent Instances, which I cannot omit. The one, that when the Bishop of *Lincoln* was petition'd against by his Archdeacon, and there was, at that time, Inclination enough in the Court to pursue him to Extremity; yet my Lord Bishop of *Peterburgh*, by interceding for him with the King, and I with the Commissioners, so effectually wrought, that the Prosecution against him was discountenanc'd and fell to the Ground.

The other Instance concerns my Lord of *Canterbury*; and I am confident his Grace will readily give me this Testimony, That I serv'd him honestly and industriously on some occasions, wherein he was like to be embroil'd with the Commission; which must inevitably have ended in his Grace's Suspension at least, since he was resolv'd, whenever he should be brought before them, whatever the Pretence had
been,

been, to deny the whole Power and Jurisdiction of the Court.

As for the last Scene transacted there, which was in order to censure the whole Clergy, for refusing to read the Declaration: In that I hope I need say nothing in my Defence, it being publickly known to the whole Nation, how I then demean'd my self; how I broke loose from the Commission in a time, when I was convinc'd I could do the Church no farther Service there, and when the Popish Party was in the height of their Power and Rage. Then it was that I join'd my self again to the common Interest of the honest Clergy, just when they were on the very Brink of Destruction, before we ever dreamt of this Glorious Deliverance.

This is certain, that my leaving and defying the Commission at that time, did apparently exasperate the Popish Priests, and the Ringleaders of the Jesuitical Faction against me, to the highest Degree imaginable. Nay, some worthy Men have made me almost so vain as to fancy, that my bidding the Commission then Farewel in so publick and peremptory a manner, was no inconsiderable Stroke towards the Dissolution of the Commission it self. It is evident, that immediately upon the receipt of my Letter, wherein I renounc'd them, they adjourn'd in Confusion for six Months, and scarce ever met afterwards.

Thus far I am sure, my perpetual Behaviour therein was so much all of a-piece, so directly against the Vogue of the Court, and the Counsels of Popery then prevailing; and the Effects of it did so visibly destroy my former Interest with the King, that whereas it is manifest I was, when the Commission began, in as fair a probability as any Clergyman in *England*, to receive great Effects of his Majesty's Favour; yet after my opposing my Lord Bishop of *London's* Suspension, and my other Votes conformable to that, I fell by degrees under his severe Displeasure.

I might add moreover, that it is very probable, I was at last in more imminent Danger than any of my

my Brethren; I say, my Lord, than any of my Brethren, the seven petitioning Bishops, and my Lord of *London* only excepted; whose Merits and Sufferings, in asserting our Laws and Religion, were so conspicuous, and by consequence the Fury of the Papists against them so implacable, that perhaps it would be Presumption in any other Clergyman, much more in me, to come in competition with them for either of those Honours.

Upon the whole Matter therefore, tho' as to the legal part of the Commission, which belong'd to Lawyers to judg of, I was mistaken, for acting in it at all: Yet in the conscientious Part, which properly concern'd me as a Divine, to act in it honestly and sincerely, according to the best of my Judgment; in that, if I shall not be thought to deserve Thanks, yet I hope I may obtain Pardon from all Men of Candour and Ingenuity.

My Lord, I know your Lordship's Generosity and tender Concern for your Friends, whereof I have had so much experience, will excuse me for troubling you with this my long Confession and Apology, for my share in the Ecclesiastical Commission. I wholly submit it to your Lordship's Prudence and Kindness, to make what use of it you please in my behalf. Only this I will say, that if I had as good a Cause for you to plead, as I have in your Lordship a Patron to defend me, I should not have an Enemy in all *England*.

My LORD, I am

Westminster,
Febr. 21.
1688.

Your Lordship's most Faithful,

Humble and Obedient Servant,

Tho. Roffen.

The Bishop of Rochester's
cond LETTER *to the*
Right Honourable the Earl
of Dorset and Middlesex,
&c.

My LORD,

I Cannot in good Manners make my Address to your Lordship in another Letter, without promising my most humble Thanks for your favourable Acceptance of the former; and for your kind Recommendation of my Plea to Men of Honour and Goodness, by the powerful Authority of your approving it.

And now, my Lord, since you have in so generous a manner admitted me once to be your Client, I am come again to put my whole Cause into your hands. For it was my Chance, I know not how, to have such a share in one or two other publick Affairs of the late Times, as obliges me to make a second Defence: Tho I have always thought, that, next to the committing Offences, nothing can be more grievous to an ingenuous Mind, than to be put upon the necessity of making Apologies.

However, upon the Encouragement your Lordship has given me, I take the boldness to say, that in the Matters about which I trouble you this once more, I trust I have good ground for an honest and open Vindication of my self. The one was, my part in King *Charles* the Second's Declaration, touching the Conspiracy; the other was, my acting in
the

the Commission for the Diocess of *London*, during the Suspension of my Lord Bishop.

But then, my Lord, after my Apology, I shall crave leave to add that which needs none, I mean an Account of what pass'd between King *James* and some of the Bishops, a little before the late wonderful Revolution; which tho' the Circumstances of it are not so generally known as they ought to be, yet, I am sure, had a very considerable effect for the benefit both of Church and State, in that critical time; and therein I may presume to say, that I had some part: So that when I come to that, perhaps I shall be able to speak more freely, and shall venture to insist upon it, as a manifest proof to the World, that the Bishops had then as difficult a Post to maintain, and maintain'd it as firmly, as any other Order of Men in the Kingdom could do theirs, for preserving the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, as well as the Interest of the Protestant Religion.

First, my Lord, as for the Book of the Conspiracy, 'tis true, I have often heard that some noble and eminent Persons, whose Kindred or Friends were unhappily concern'd in the Subject of that History, had entertain'd a prejudice against me thereupon. But to them I shall make this equitable Request, that they would suspend any farther Censure of me for what I did write, till they shall be fairly inform'd how much there is that I have not written.

I will not deny, that it was at the Request, or rather the Command, of King *Charles* the Second, that I drew up a Relation of that Plot: And to that end, I had free liberty to consult the Paper-Office and Council-Books, whence I was plentifully furnish'd with such authentick Materials, either of Papers printed by Authority, or of sworn Depositions and Confessions, as have been always thought the best ground for an Historian to work upon.

But now, my Lord, I can still alledg, that tho' a vast heap of such Matter was immediately supply'd to my hands; and tho' I often receiv'd earnest Messages, and some sharp Words from that gentle King

to quicken my Slowness, yet more than twelve Months had past before I could be brought to put Pen to Paper; out of my natural Aversion to any Business, that might reflect severely upon any Man: my own Inclination rather leading me to the other Extreme, that is, rather to commend too much what in the least seems well done, than to aggravate what is ill done by others.

However, upon King *Charles's* frequent Commands, and continu'd Importunity, I did at length obey; and the rather, because I had formerly somewhat incur'd that King's and his Brother's Displeasure, by my declining to write against the States of *Holland*, during the time of the first and second *Dutch Wars*.

Being thus over-persuaded, I made my Collections, and presented them to that King: Which his Majesty having himself perus'd, was pleas'd to direct me to put them into the hands of the Lord Keeper *North*, who carefully read and corrected what I had done, and added divers matters of Fact, which had escap'd my Observation.

Thus the Work stood in Preparation for the Press, when the deplorable Death of that King happen'd. And shortly after King *James* the Second calling for the Papers, and having read them, and alter'd divers Passages, caus'd them to be printed by his own Authority, as is to be seen before the Book.

But now, my Lord, I can truly declare, that during my composing those Collections, I earnestly requested King *Charles* the Second (and your Lordship knows, as well as any Man, how agreeable such a Request was to the benign Temper of that King) I requested him, I say, that few or no Names of Persons should be mention'd, whatever probable Suggestions might be against them, but only such, upon whom publick Judgment had pass'd, which it could be to no purpose for me to conceal.

I could indeed have wish'd, that my Lord *Russel's*, and some other Names of Persons of Honour, might have been of the Number to be omitted, upon that very account; but 'twas none of my fault that they were not. I could not hinder, nor did I in the least contribute

contribute to their Fall : Nay, I lamented it, especially my Lord *Russel's*, after I was fully convinc'd by Discourse with the Reverend Dean of *Canterbury*, of that noble Gentleman's great Probity, and constant Abhorrence of Falshood; but that was a good while after. All that I did, was the publishing, or rather indeed the putting together methodically, what before was sufficiently publish'd in printed Papers that were licens'd : And out of them to draw the Substance of a Declaration of State, in Vindication of that which the Authority of the Nation, at that time, call'd, The Publick Justice of the Kingdom.

But, my Lord, to return to what I was saying, King *Charles* having granted my Desire of concealing divers Names, according to this Allowance I proceeded, leaving out some, and abbreviating others; endeavouring all along to spare Parties and Families, and particular Persons, as much as would be allow'd. All which may be demonstrated from the Copies of the Depositions, as they went out of my hands, where there were several Names visibly mark'd by my own Pen, to be pass'd by in the Publication. So that if some indifferent Man should now compare the Informations as they are in Print, with the Originals in the Secretary's, or the Paper-Office, he would, it may be, be apter to suspect me of Connivance, than of Calumny on that side.

If I have now given your Lordship any Satisfaction touching my fair Dealing in my Part of that Book, I doubt not but what follows will give you more; when I shall assure you of my having refus'd to write a Continuation of the same History. For, my Lord, it was some time after the Duke of *Monmouth's* Overthrow and Execution, that K. *James* the Second requir'd me to undertake such another Task, and presently to set about a Second Part. To that purpose his Majesty gave me a sight of multitudes of Original Letters and Papers, together with the Confessions of several Persons then taken in *England* and *Scotland*: who did indeed seem all to outvie one another, who should reveal most, both

of

of Men and Things relating to the old Conspiracy, as well as to the Duke of *Monmouth's*, and the Earl of *Argyle's* Invasion.

But finding the Innocence of divers Persons of Worth, and Honour touch'd in those Papers, and by that time beginning vehemently to suspect things were running apace towards the endangering of our Laws and Religion, I must say, I never could be induc'd by all his Majesty's reiterated Commands, to go on with that Work. Instead of that, tho I had all the Materials for such a Narrative within my Power, for above three years, and might easily have finish'd it in a month or six weeks space, yet I chose rather to suppress and silence, as much as I could, all that new Evidence; which, if openly produc'd, would have blemish'd the Reputation of some honourable Persons.

Give me leave, my Lord, only to add, That I am confident there are several Original Papers still in being, which would be more than enough to convince all impartial Men, how moderate and tender I was in that Cause.

Next, my Lord, having mention'd my being concern'd in the Commission for the Diocess of *London*, in that I had the good Fortune to be join'd with an excellent Person, my Lord Bishop of *Peterborough*. And we can both truly say, that as we enter'd into that Commission with my Lord of *London's* good Will, so we acted nothing in it without the greatest Respect to his Interest.

It is well known we continu'd all his Officers in the full Profits and Privileges of their Places. We faithfully maintain'd the Rights of his Bishoprick, and once in the King's own Presence, against his Majesty's express Inclinations, in a Business of no less Concernment than my Lord Mayor's Chappel. We never invaded any of my Lord Bishop's Preferments, that fell void in that Interval; we dispos'd of none but according to his own Directions. We us'd his Clergy with the same affectionate Care and brotherly Love, as he himself had done; who was, on that account, as dear to them, as any Bishop in *Christendom* was to his Diocess.

And

And we appeal to them, whether we might not rather expect their Kindness and Thanks, than suspect their Ill-will for all our Transactions with them. Nor can this be thought a vain Boast to any Man, who shall seriously reflect on the terrible Aspect of Things from Court upon the *London Clergy*, during the whole time of our exercising that Jurisdiction. The remembrance whereof makes me not doubt to affirm, that if my Lord Bishop of *Peterborough* and I had not then stood in the Gap, but some other Persons, who were prepar'd to be thrust in, upon our leaving that Commission, had got it absolutely into their Power, 'tis possible the most learned and pious Clergy in the World had been somewhat otherwise imploy'd than they were; and had been too much taken up in defending themselves from the violent Persecutions of the Popish Party, to have leisure to confute and triumph over the Popish Cause; as they entirely did in their admirable Writings, to the Glory and Establishment of the Church of *England*.

My Lord, to the Truth of what I have here said concerning the Commission of *London*, I have the Bishop of *Peterborough* ready to attest. I should indeed be glad I could claim as just a share in another of his Lordship's meritorious Services to the Publick, as I may do in this: But in that I cannot; for 'tis evident the seven Bishops, whereof he was one, had such an opportunity put into their Hands, by God's Providence, for the Overthrow of Popery and Arbitrary Power, by their Sufferings for delivering their Sense of King *James* the Second's Declaration, as 'tis likely never any of the Episcopal Order had before, and, 'tis to be hop'd, will never have again.

This however I will say, I had certainly added my self to their Number, if I had then understood the Question, as well as I did afterwards upon their Tryal, where I was present, in order to be a Witness in their behalf, at the same time your Lordship and many other noble Lords were there, to give countenance to so good a Cause.

There

There it was, my Lord, that I was first convinc'd of the false Foundations and mischievous Consequences of such a Dispensing Power, as that on which the Declaration was grounded: So that I have ever since been persuaded, that from that Petition of those Bishops, so defended by the invincible Arguments of their learned Council on that day, and so justify'd by the honest Verdict of their undaunted Jury on the next Day; from thence, I say, we may date the first great successful Step, that was made towards the rescuing of our Laws and Religion.

For my part I must own, I was so fully satisfy'd by the excellent Pleadings of those great Lawyers at that Tryal, that I confess I never had till then so clear a Notion, what unalterable Bounds the Law has fix'd between the just Prerogatives of the Crown, and the legal Rights of the Subject. And therefore from that very Day I hasten'd to make what Reparations I could for the Errors occasion'd by my former Ignorance; and to act for the future, what I always intended, as became a true *Englishman*.

Nor was it long after, that I met with a signal Opportunity to put this my Purpose in Practice: For perceiving the Rage of the Popish Party against the Church of *England* was rather heighten'd than abated, by my Lords the Bishops being acquitted; and fearing the Ecclesiastical Commission was next to be employ'd, to wreak the Papists Revenge on the Orthodox Clergy, when *Westminster-Hall* could not do it, I presently resolv'd to desert that Commission, from whence I had often before labour'd and intreated in vain to be fairly dismiss'd: And immediately I sent the Commissioners the following Letter, whereof your Lordship may remember I then presented you with a Copy; as knowing how much you would be pleas'd, with my other Friends, at my forsaking that Board upon any Terms.

To

To the Right Honourable my LORDS,
His Majesty's Commissioners for Eccle-
siastical Affairs, &c.

My LORDS,

I Most humbly intreat your Lordships favourable In-
terpretation of what I now write, That since your
Lordships are resolv'd to proceed against those, who
have not comply'd with the King's Commands in read-
ing his Declaration, it is absolutely impossible for me
to serve his Majesty any longer in this Commission. I
beg leave to tell your Lordships, that tho I my self
did submit in that Particular, yet I will never be any
ways instrumental in punishing those my Brethren who
did not. For, as I call God to witness, that what I
did was merely upon a Principle of Conscience; so I
am fully satisfy'd, that their Forbearance was upon the
same Principle. I have no reason to think otherwise of
the whole Body of our Clergy, who, upon all occasions,
have signaliz'd their Loyalty to the Crown, and their
zealous Affections to his present Majesty's Person in the
worst of Times. Now, my Lords, the Safety of the
whole Church of England seeming to be exceedingly
concern'd in this Prosecution, I must declare, that I
cannot, with a safe Conscience, sit as Judg in this
Cause, upon so many pious and excellent Men: With
whom, if it be God's Will, it rather becomes me to
suffer, than to be in the least accessory to their Suffering.
I therefore earnestly request your Lordships to intercede
with the King, that I may be graciously dismiss'd any
farther Attendance at your Board, and to assure his
Majesty, that I am still ready to sacrifice whatever I
have to his Service, but my Conscience and Religion.

My LORDS,

I am your Lordships most Faithful,

Bromley,
Aug. 15.
1688.

Humble and Obedient Servant,

C

Tho. Roffen.

Your Lordship seeing what I have said in this Letter, concerning my submitting in that Business of the Declaration, upon a Principle of Conscience, as I then thought, you may expect my Reason for doing so.

I must frankly confess, I had then a Doubt in my Mind, arising from a Rubrick in the Common-Prayer (which is, as much as any other, a Law of the Land) whether a Bishop could lawfully deny the reading of whatever the King should ordain to be read in Churches. And 'twas merely upon that mistaken Scruple of Conscience, I was induc'd not to oppose that Command of the King in Council; I say, not to oppose it: Farther than that, I still say, I went not in that Business. For it is most true, that the Orders of Council, for publishing that Declaration in Churches, were dispers'd thro the Places of my Jurisdiction immediately from the King's Printing-House, without my Injunction, or so much as my Knowledg.

And after they were sent abroad, tho I did not, 'tis true, revoke them, as not being then well determin'd in the Case, yet I no where insisted to have them obey'd. Nay, both in my own Diocess of *Rochester*, and in that of *London*, where I had then very unwillingly some Inspection, there is no one Clergyman can upbraid me for urging any Man to read, or reproving any for not reading the Declaration.

If it shall be objected, that I permitted it to be read in *Westminster-Abby*, I desire it may be also consider'd, what dreadful Apprehensions this Royal Church and School were then under, from our Neighbours the Jesuits at Court; who lay in wait to take any Advantage, whereby they might stir up the King to ruin us. Besides that a *Quo Warranto* was then actually issu'd out against us, and we were every day threaten'd, that as we were the nearest, so we should fall the first Prey into the hands of the Popish Priests.

But to go on; I need not remind your Lordship what Wrath and Indignation this Letter to the Commissioners

missioners produc'd against me from the Jesuited Party at Court; for which yet I esteem'd my self abundantly recompens'd by the Peace it gave me in my own Mind, and I hope I may say, by the good Will it reviv'd towards me in the Hearts of good Men; especially of my Lord Archbishop, and the other persecuted Bishops, with whom I ever after acted in perfect Conjunction for the Publick Good.

That, my Lord, is the last Particular whereof I promis'd to give your Lordship an Account. And I come to it more chearfully than I did to the rest, because this is the only matter of all I undertook to speak of, wherein I am not conscious to my self, that I need any Excuse.

It was therefore some time after the Tryal of the Seven Bishops, and after my leaving the Commission, when upon the King's sudden return from *Windsor*, and the first Alarm given of the Preparations in *Holland*, my Lord of *Canterbury*, and some of his Suffragan Bishops, whereof I had the Honour to be one, were sent for by expresse Letters dated *September* the 24th, to attend his Majesty at *Whitehall*. Accordingly, all of us that were in Town, except my Lord Archbishop, who was then very ill, waited on the King the *Friday* following, being the Day appointed. But little or nothing passing betwixt his Majesty and us, at our first Attendance, beyond general Expressions of his Favour and our Duty, we intreated my Lord of *Canterbury* to procure for us a second and more particular Audience; wherein we might all deliver our plain and sincere Sense of Things, as we saw the dangerous Condition of the Church and State then requir'd from Men of our Character. And on the *Sunday* after, my Lord Archbishop obtain'd of the King, that we shou'd be admitted to a full Liberty of Speech with him the next *Tuesday* Morning.

All *Monday* we spent at *Lambeth*, in preparing the humble Advice we thought fit to offer the next Day. But the King being otherwise accidentally diverted on *Tuesday* Morning, our Attendance on him was put off till *Wednesday*. Whereas, had we

been admitted to his Majesty that *Tuesday*, we cou'd not have fail'd of getting some Credit to our selves, and to the Church, for having requested him to restore the Charter of *London* among other Charters. For from the very beginning of our Consultations, we had fix'd upon that to be one of our principal Petitions. Whereof his Majesty, perhaps, having had some private Intimation, thought it more for his Service to prevent us, by making it an Act of his own Grace. This is certain, that very *Tuesday* in the Evening, he first declar'd publicly in the Council, to divers eminent Citizens, his Purpose to restore the City Charter. So that when we came the next Day, we found nothing left for us to do towards that great Affair, but only to turn our intended Request into Thanks, as we did.

However, on *Wednesday* Morning we had our second Audience; when my Lord of *Canterbury* deliver'd our free and honest Advice, with such a becoming Meekness, Gravity, and Courage, as indeed was admirable.

Now, because there has been hitherto only an imperfect Relation printed of what pass'd at that Meeting; I think it may not be unacceptable to the Publick, to give here an exact Account of our whole Proceedings with the King in that Affair, as it was drawn up by my Lord Archbishop himself. And it had been happy, if all Addressses to his Majesty had been alike faithful to the King's and the Kingdom's Interest.

For

For his Grace the Lord Archbishop of
Canterbury.

My Lord,

THE King thinking it requisite to speak with your Grace, and several others of the Bishops, who are within a convenient Distance of this Place; his Majesty commands me to acquaint you, That he wou'd have you attend him upon Friday next, at Ten in the Morning,

My Lord,

I am your most Faithful, &c.

Whitehall, Sept.

24. 1688.

Sunderland P.

Letters to the same purpose, and of the same date, (or about that Time) were sent to the Bishops of London, Winchester, Ely, Chichester, Rochester, Bath and Wells, Peterborough, and Bristol; all which (but London and Bristol) came to Town; and all but the Archbishop waited on the King at the time appointed. The next day, the Bishop of Winchester went out of Town; and the day after that, the Archbishop waited upon the King alone: and by his Appointment, on Wednesday, Octob. 3. all who remain'd in Town went together to his Majesty; to whom (in the Name of the rest) the Archbishop spake as followeth.

May it please your Sacred Majesty,

WHen I had lately the Honour to wait upon you, you were pleas'd briefly to acquaint me with what had pass'd two days before, between your Majesty and these my Reverend Brethren: by which, and by the Account which they themselves gave me, I perceiv'd, that in truth there pass'd nothing, but in very general Terms, and Expressions of your Majesty's gracious and favourable Inclinations to the Church of England, and of our reciprocal Duty and Loyalty to your Majesty: both which were sufficiently understood and declar'd

The Bishop of Bath and Wells. Brethren then told you) wou'd have been in the same State, if the Bishops had not stir'd one Foot out of their Dioceses. Sir, I found it griev'd my Lords the Bishops to have come so far, and to have done so little; and I am assur'd, they came then prepar'd to have given your Majesty some more particular Instances of their Duty and Zeal for your Service, had they not apprehended from some Words which fell from your Majesty, that you were not then at Leisure to receive them. It was for this reason that I then besought your Majesty to command us once more to attend you all together: which your Majesty was pleas'd graciously to allow and encourage. We are therefore here now before you, with all Humility, to beg your Permission, that we may suggest to your Majesty such Advices as we think proper at this Season, and conducing to your Service, and so leave them to your princely Consideration. Which the King being pleas'd graciously to permit, the Archbishop proceeded as followeth. Our First humble Advice is,

I. That your Majesty will be graciously pleas'd to put the Management of your Government in the several Counties, into the Hands of such of the Nobility and Gentry there, as are legally qualify'd for it.

II. That your Majesty will be graciously pleas'd to annul your Commission for Ecclesiastical Affairs; and that no such Court as that Commission sets up, may be erected for the future.

III. That your Majesty will be graciously pleas'd, that no Dispensation may be granted or continu'd, by virtue whereof, any Person, not duly qualify'd by Law, hath been, or may be, put into any Place, Office, or Preferment, in Church or State, or in the Universities, or continu'd in the same, especially such as have Cure of Souls annex'd to them: And in particular, that you will be graciously pleas'd to restore the President and Fellows of St. Mary Magdalen College in Oxford.

IV. That your Majesty will be graciously pleas'd to set aside all Licences or Faculties already granted, by which any Persons of the Romish Communion may pretend

tend to be enabled to teach publick Schools : and that no such be granted for the future.

V. That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to desist from the exercise of such a Dispensing Power as hath of late been used ; and to permit that Point to be freely and calmly debated and argu'd, and finally settled in Parliament.

VI. That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to inhibit the four foreign Bishops who stile themselves Vicars Apostolical, from farther invading the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, which is by Law vested in the Bishops of this Church.

VII. That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to fill the vacant Bishopricks, and other Ecclesiastical Promotions within your Gift, both in England and Ireland, with Men of Learning and Piety : And in particular, (which I must own to be my peculiar Boldness, for 'tis done without the privity of my Brethren) That you will be graciously pleased forthwith to fill the Archiepiscopal Chair of York (which hath so long stood empty, and upon which a whole Province depends) with some very worthy Person : For which (pardon me, Sir, if I am bold to say) you have here now before you a very fair Choice.

VIII. That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to supersede all farther Prosecution of Quo Warranto's against Corporations, and to restore to them their ancient Charters, Privileges, and Franchises, as we hear God hath put into your Majesty's Heart to do for the City of London, which we intended to have made otherwise one of our principal Requests.

IX. That if it so please your Majesty, Writs may be issued out with convenient speed, for the Calling of a free and regular Parliament, in which the Church of England may be secur'd according to the Acts of Uniformity ; Provision may be made for a due Liberty of Conscience, and for securing the Liberties and Properties of all your Subjects ; and a mutual Confidence and good Understanding may be establish'd between your Majesty and all your People.

X. Above all, That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit your Bishops to offer you such Motives

tives and Arguments, as (we trust) may, by God's Grace, be effectual to persuade your Majesty to return to the Communion of the Church of England, into whose most holy Catholick Faith you were baptized, and in which you were educated, and to which it is our daily earnest Prayer to God, that you may be reunited.

These (Sir) are the humble Advices which, out of Conscience of the Duty we owe to God, to your Majesty, and to our Country, we think fit at this time to offer to your Majesty, as suitable to the present State of your Affairs, and most conducing to your Service, and so to leave them to your Princely Consideration. " And
 " we heartily beseech Almighty God, in whose Hand
 " the Hearts of all Kings are, so to dispose and govern
 " yours, that in all your Thoughts, Words, and Works,
 " you may ever seek his Honour and Glory, and study
 " to preserve the People committed to your Charge, in
 " Wealth, Peace, and Godliness, to your own both
 " temporal and eternal Happiness. Amen.

We do heartily
 concur.

H. London.
 P. Winchester.
 W. Asaph.

W. Cant.

Fran. Ely.

Jo. Cicestr.

Tho. Roffen.

Tho. Bath and Wells.

Tho. Petriburg.

It is for others Information, not for yours, my Lord, that I have been so punctual and minute in the Circumstances of this Business, wherewith your Lordship was fully made acquainted, just after the very time, at *Copthall*, as much as my Lord of *London's* and my Memory cou'd serve us to do it.

But one thing farther I must observe as very remarkable in this Affair, That if the exact Time of this our Address to King *James* at *Whitehall* shall be compar'd with the Day of the Prince of *Orange* his present Majesty's setting forth his first Declaration in *Holland*, they will be found to bear very near the same Date. For our Address here was form'd at *Lambeth*, on *Monday, October 1.* and shou'd have been

been deliver'd on *Tuesday* the 2d, and was actually presented on *Wednesday* the 3d: and that Declaration was sign'd there on the 10th of *October*, which, considering the two Styles, makes little or no difference.

And if I might presume to compare small things with great, in the Matter of them as well as in the Date, I wou'd venture to say, that most of the very same Grievances which his Highness insisted on in his Declaration, except one or two that were too high for us Subjects to meddle with, were so early represented by us to the King in that Petition, as things necessary to be speedily redress'd.

And, my Lord, I cannot but add, that this we did in a time when the King thought of nothing less than Victory; when in all human Probability, he was the strongest both by Sea and Land; when as yet there was no appearance of such a prodigious Alienation of his Subjects Affections; when at least, his Army was thought to be still firm to him; when the very Winds and Seas seem'd hitherto as much on his side, as they all afterwards turn'd against him.

After that, my Lord, as I remember, the next solemn time of our waiting on King *James II.* was occasion'd by the interception of the Prince of *Orange's* Declaration here in *London*, some short time before his Highness's Landing: For upon reading that Expression in it, "That the Prince was most earnestly invited hither by divers Lords both Spiritual and Temporal, and by many Gentlemen, and others of all Ranks;" the King forthwith sent for some of the Bishops, who were nearest at hand, and requir'd us to justify our selves to the World, as to our part in that Invitation. To this end, his Majesty fix'd a short Day, whereon he oblig'd us to present him a Paper under our Hands, signifying our Abhorrence of the Prince of *Orange's* intended Invasion.

My Lord, the Day came, and great Throngs there were at Court, expecting the Issue of that Conference. We saw both the Friends and Enemies

of the Church of *England* equally impatient to know what we wou'd do in that difficult Moment. The King himself had affirm'd to us, He thought his good Success exceedingly depended upon our ready compliance with his Command of Abhorring. A Declaration was then in the Press against the Prince of *Orange*, the present King, and was only stop'd for our Paper of Abhorrence to be inserted into it: and there happen'd to be but four of our Number, my Lord of *Canterbury*, my Lord of *London*, my Lord of *Peterborough*, and my self, who were present upon the Place, to endure that terrible Brunt.

In short, as soon as we were come into the King's Presence, his Majesty, with great Earnestness, call'd for our Paper. We, with all Submission, intreated to be excus'd from writing any thing of that nature, and from making a particular Defence to a general Accusation, lest we shou'd give the first Precedent of that kind, against the *Privilege of Peers*. Besides that, our Profession being to promote Peace, we thought it belong'd not to us to declare War, especially against a Prince so nearly ally'd to the Crown.

But the King still more insisted, argued, and expostulated with us; insomuch, that if ever in all my life I saw him more than ordinary vehement in Speech, and transported in his Expressions, it was at that time.

However, we still made good our humble * Refusal, in as dutiful Terms as 'twas possible: among

* *The Bishops of Scotland, on the contrary, were drawn into a Declaration, abhorring the Invasion of the Prince of Orange, and renouncing the Principles on which it was founded; which prov'd such a Snare to them, that they cou'd not in honour act in Parliament after the Revolution, but deserted the Service of their Church and Country, and left the Management of both entirely to the Presbyterians, who then made use of the Opportunity, and establish'd themselves by Law, purely by the Absence of the Bishops from Parliament. So that as the English Bishops refusing to stand by the Doctrine of Passive Obedience, sav'd Episcopacy in England; so the Scotch Bishops adhering to that Doctrine, destroy'd Episcopacy in Scotland. The Declaration of the Scotch Bishops is printed in the Appendix.*

many Arguments, urging chiefly, That as we were join'd with our Brethren, the other Lords Spiritual, and with the Lords Temporal, and with the Gentry of *England*, in the Accusation; so we beseech'd him, we might not be separated from them in our Justification: concluding all with an earnest Request to his Majesty, That he wou'd be pleased to condescend to the calling a free Parliament; wherein only he cou'd rightly understand what was the general Sense and true Interest of the whole Kingdom.

At last, when neither the King wou'd hearken to our zealous Motion for a Parliament, nor we cou'd be prevail'd on to subscribe an Abhorrence of the Prince of *Orange's* Design, his Majesty parted from us with Indignation. And thereupon, the Jesuited Party at Court were so violently enraged against us, that, as we were credibly inform'd, one of the Chief advised in a Heat, we should all be imprison'd, and the Truth should be extorted from us by Violence.

I told your Lordship, the Conclusion of that our serious Debate with the King, was, on our Side, the begging him to call a free Parliament. The Truth is, a free Parliament was the main Point, and the last Result of all our Requests to his Majesty; from the first Day of his admitting us to give him our honest Advice, till the Time of his leaving the Kingdom.

I need not put your Lordship in mind of the Petition, we presented him to the same Purpose, which was sign'd by divers of the Spiritual and Temporal Lords, and, among others, by your Self; and was afterwards seconded from several Parts of the Nation; especially by the Noblemen and Gentlemen assembled at *York*; and by the Fleet under the Command of my Lord *Dartmouth*; and by the Lord Bishop, and the Clergy, and the Citizens of *Bristol*. As it had been also soon followed by the Rest of the Kingdom, had there been time enough for the doing of it.

But having mentioned that Petition for a free and regular Parliament, I hope it will not be thought Presumption in me, if I suggest, I had the Honour to have it consider'd, agreed on, and sign'd, at my House at *Westminster*: And that I was one of the four Bishops (the two Archbishops, and my Lord of *Ely*, being the other three) who ventur'd to deliver it to the King; after we heard he had protested he would take it highly ill of any Man, that should offer him a Thing of that Nature. Nevertheless we did it, and thought our selves bound, in Duty to God and Man, so to do.

Your Lordship perceives, all that I have said on this last Subject, concerns only some few Particulars, that pass'd in three or four Conferences, between King *James* the second, and some of the Bishops, who happen'd then to be within Call: Tho we had afterwards the Concurrence of our Absent Brethren. And we may now appeal to all the World, whether we did not demean our Selves on those hazardous Occasions, with that Zeal against Popery, and for the Legal Establishment both in Church and State, as became the Station we hold in both.

If your Lordship's leisure would permit me to look farther back, and to recount what was written, acted, or suffer'd, by the Members of the Church of *England* in General, during that Reign; 'twere easy to recollect so many memorable Instances of unshaken Truth and Courage, in the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Commonalty of our Communion; in maintaining our Religion against *Rome*, and our Laws against unlimited Power; as might well furnish sufficient Materials for an ample Relation.

I know it was formerly a popular Objection of divers misguided Dissenters from the Church of *England*, That our Principles were too Monarchical, and that we carried the Doctrine of Obedience farther than might be consistent with the Safety of a Protestant Church, or the Privileges of a free-born People.

But it is now to be hoped, that the strongest Argument of all others, which is Experience from undoubted Matter of Fact, has put this Objection for ever out of Countenance. Since it is undeniable, that during that whole time, when our Civil and Spiritual Liberties were in so much Danger, the greatest, and most considerable Stop, that was here put to the Arts of *Rome*, and Intrigues of *France*, was put by the steady Resolution of the true Sons of the Church of *England*.

I pretend not to upbraid any Party or Sect among us, for any undue Compliance in that Time. But this I will assert, that generally speaking, the whole Body of the Church of *England*, both Laity and Clergy, did not comply.

Nay, it were infinite to reckon up the Examples, we then saw every Day, of Men of all Conditions, from the highest to the lowest, all Members of the Church of *England*; who preferred the saving of the establish'd Government in Church and State, before any Temptations of private Profit or Interest.

Not to say any thing more of the learned and unanswerable Writings of that Time against Popery; for in that Merit, I suppose none of any other Persuasion will enter into any Competition with the Orthodox Clergy: But I now only speak of those many honourable Self-denials, which the Church of *England* Men then practised, for the Sake of the true English Liberty, and Reformation.

What Officers and Commanders were there almost in the whole Army, besides the Sons of the Church of *England*; who chose to be discarded from those very Troops and Regiments, which their own Interest and Money had raised, rather than contribute to take away the great Fences of our Liberty and Religion? What Officers in the Courts of Justice, and in the several Branches of the Revenue? What Members of Boroughs, Corporations, and Cities, in comparison of those of the Church of *England*, endured the Loss of their
Places

Places of Trust and Profit, for not consenting to abolish the Tests and Penal Laws against Papists?

What eminent Nobility and Gentry in all Counties, submitted cheerfully to be slighted, and deprived of all Authority and Power among their Neighbours, in Peace or War? Were they not generally, and almost to a Man, of the Church of *England*?

Was not a considerable Part of the Court turn'd out? Did not divers Persons of the highest Titles and Dignities there, endure to lose their Prince's Favour, upon this very Account? Did we not see the most advantageous and most honourable Offices, the very white Staves, and the greatest of them, not valued, but easily parted with, when Religion came in Question?

I need not go on to recite more particularly all these Things, especially to your Lordship, who were your Self one of the noble Sufferers in the same Cause. 'Twill be sufficient to affirm once for all, that the main Body of those, who made so brave a Stand, were all of the Church of *England*; and the Principles on which they stood, were all Church-of-*England* Principles.

My Lord, it was by these Persons, and these Principles, that Popery was stop'd in its full Career; by these it was then hindred from conquering, and put into a Condition to be shortly after conquer'd it self in this Nation.

After having troubled your Lordship so long with my own private Cause, and having said something to, in the behalf of what is much more dear to me, the Publick; pray let me conclude with that, which, in this Juncture of Affairs, may be accounted well nigh another Publick Cause: Let me present you with my humble well-meaning Opinion, what Moderation is to be shewn towards those, who happen'd to be employ'd in the late Times.

My Lord, 'twould be great Presumption in me, having been my Self so far engag'd, to offer at an Apology for other Persons concern'd then, either with

with me in the Commission, or in any other Publick Business; particularly for some of your Lordship's Acquaintance, whose Cause may be more defensible than mine; and I am sure their Abilities to defend it, are much greater: Only in general, I will take the Freedom to say, That I make no question, but divers good Men, who were then in Employments, did in Prudence submit to some things in order to hinder worse. I doubt not, but many acted then, not to increase, but to mitigate the Violence of those Times. Some were in such Stations, which perhaps 'twas well done of them, not suddenly to desert, lest worse Men should come in, to do that which they design'd to prevent. I believe, some being, as it were, in the middle of the Stream, when the Tide turn'd so violently against our establish'd Church and Laws, were driven down lower than they expected, before they could resist the Current, or get to Shore. Wherefore, considering all Circumstances, 'twas well so many mistook not the true Interest of the Nation. 'Twas happy so many preserv'd their Integrity; so many had the honest Hardiness to stand unmoved by the Importunity of their King, whom they were bred up to honour, and in all Things else to obey.

And in common Sense of human Frailty, are not many Infirmities at such a Time as that, to be overlook'd now, by wise and good Men? Do not many false Steps so made, deserve to be pitied? May it not be thought some kind of Merit, or some degree of Innocence at least, not to have made more, in such a slippery Ground as we then trod on?

If, my Lord, every failure of that Time should be esteem'd a criminal Compliance, every Compliance should be judg'd unpardonable; who then, that remain'd under the Government, can be counted Innocent? Who shall be able justly to throw the first Stone? What Place will be then left for the Offender's Hope, or for a Prince's Forgiveness, the noblest and most divine Part of Power?

My Lord, the constant Experience of all wise Times has shew'd, That all Civil Dissensions and Quarrels,

Quarrels, are best ended by the largest Acts of Indemnity and Oblivion: In *England* especially, where good Nature is soon apt to have Compassion upon the afflicted. Here perhaps scarce any thing can be more dangerous to the Party that is uppermost, than to put English Men upon pitying those that suffer under it. And certainly this Revolution, if ever any, should be mild in the Event, since it was Bloodless in the whole Course of it, in a Time, when there was most danger of Effusion of Blood.

I will say no more, my Lord, but this, That after great and unexpected Changes, that hath been always found the firmest Settlement of any State or Government, where the prevailing Party hath look'd but very little backward, and very much forward; where private Animosity and Revenge have wisely given way to the greater Benefits of publick Pardon and Indulgence.

Perhaps, towards the Beginning of great Reformations, a warm impetuous Spirit may have its use; but to compose Things after sudden Commotions, to calm Mens Minds for the Future, to settle Affairs in a secure and lasting Peace, most certainly a gentle, generous, charitable Temper is the best: And to say all in one Word, such a Temper as is your Lordship's.

MY LORD,

Westminster,
Mar. 26, 1689.

I am your Lordship's

most Faithful, Humble,

and Obedient Servant,

Tho. Roffen.

F I N I S.

APPENDIX.

*The Letter of the Scotch Bishops to King James.**May it please your most Sacred Majesty,*

WE prostrate our Selves, to pay our most devote Thanks and Adoration, to the Sovereign Majesty of Heaven and Earth, for preserving your sacred Life and Person, so frequently expos'd to the greatest Hazards, and as often deliver'd; and you miraculously prosper'd with Glory and Victory, in Defence of the Rights and Honour of your Majesty's August Brother, and of these Kingdoms: And that, by his merciful Goodness, the Ragings of the Sea, and Madness of unreasonable Men, have been still'd and calm'd; and your Majesty, as the Darling of Heaven, peaceably seated on the Throne of your Royal Ancestors, whose long, illustrious and unparallel'd Line, is the greatest Glory of this your auncient Kingdom.

We pay our most humble Gratitude to your Majesty, for the repeated Assurances of your Royal Protection to our *National Church and Religion*, as the Laws have establish'd them; which are very suitable to the gracious Countenance, Encouragement and Protection, your Majesty was pleas'd to afford to our *Church and Order*, whilst we were happy in your Presence among us.

We magnify the Divine Mercy, in blessing your Majesty with a *Son*, and Us with a *Prince*, whom we pray Heaven may bless and preserve, to sway your Royal Sceptres after you; and that he may inherit, with your Dominions, the illustrious and heroic Vertues of his august and most serene Parents.

We are amaz'd to hear of the Danger of an *Invasion* from *Holland*, which excites our Prayers for an universal Repentance, from all Orders of Men, that God may yet spare his People, preserve your Royal Person, and prevent the Effusion of Christian Blood; and to give such Success to your Majesty's Arms, that all who *invade* your Majesty's just and undoubted *Rights*, and disturb or interrupt the *Peace* of your Realms, may be disappointed, and *cloathed with Shame*; so that on your Royal Head the *Crown may still flourish*.

As, by the Grace of God, we shall preserve in our Selves a firm and unshaken *Loyalty*; so we shall be careful and zealous to promote, in all your Subjects, an intrepid and stedfast *Allegiance* to your Majesty, as an essential Part of their *Religion*, and of the Glory of our Holy Profession: Not doubting, but that God, in his great Mercy, who hath so often preserv'd and deliver'd your Majesty, will still preserve and deliver you, by giving you the Hearts of your Subjects, and the Necks of your Enemies. So pray we, who, in all Humility are,

(*May it please your most Sacred Majesty*)

*Your Majesty's most Humble, most Faithful,
and most Obedient * Subjects and Servants.*

Edinburgh,
Nov. 3. 1688.

Sign'd by

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| The Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, | Lord Bishop of <i>Dunkel</i> , |
| The Lord Archbishop of <i>Glasgow</i> , | Lord Bishop of <i>Brechen</i> , |
| Lord Bp. of <i>Edinburg</i> , | Lord Bishop of <i>Orkney</i> , |
| Lord Bishop of <i>Galloway</i> , | Lord Bishop of <i>Murray</i> , |
| Lord Bishop of <i>Aberdeen</i> , | Lord Bishop of <i>Ross</i> , |
| | Lord Bishop of <i>Dunblain</i> , |
| | Lord Bishop of the <i>Iles</i> . |

* *Quære, Whether in the Original it be not Slaves and Vassals.*

F I N I S.

In a few Days will be publish'd,

THE History of the Ecclesi-
astical Commission, in the
Reign of King *James II.*

In a few Days will be publish'd
THE History of the Ecclesi-
astical Commission, in the
reign of King James II.
