

the Canal which he has been obliged to open, for hindering the Submerſion of a conſiderable Extent of Country, for preventing the Ruin of his Subjects who inhabit it, and by no Means for keeping Fleets there, to terrify his Neighbours. He deſires nothing more than to maintain with them the Peace that has been happily re-eſtabliſh'd; to contribute, according to his Deſire, towards the flouriſhing of their Commerce; to unite *France* and *Great Britain* by the Bands of Correſpondence, and the ſtricteſt Friendſhip; laſtly, to diſſipate the Umbrage capable of diſturb- ing this perfect Intelligence, he perſuades himſelf, that the King of *Great Britain*, ſhewing the ſame Sentiments to him, will employ all his Power and Authority to preſerve an Union ſo neceſſary to the general Tranquility of Europe.

On the 9th of *March*, *M. Van Duivenvorde* and *M. Van Borſelen*, Embaſſadors extraordinary from their High Migh- tineſſes the States General of the United Provinces, made their Publick Entry. They were receiv'd at *Greenwich* by the Earl of *Tankerville*, and Sir *Clement Cottrel*, Maſter of the Ceremonies, accompany'd by ſix Gentlemen of his Maſteſty's Privy Chamber: From thence they were brought by Water, together with all their Train, in his Maſteſty's Barges to the Tower. At their Landing they were receiv'd by *Robert D'Oyly*, Eſq; Deputy to the Lieutenant of the Tower, in the Abſence of the Earl of *Northampton*, Conſtable of the ſaid Tower; and the Guard being drawn out upon the Wharf, ſaluted their Excellencies as they paſſ'd by. The Royal Standard was diſplay'd upon this Occaſion; but their Excellencies diſpens'd with the Firing of the Guns, leſt much Miſchief might have enſu'd to the Cuſtom-Houſe, and many other Houſes near adjoining, extremely ſhatter'd by the late dreadful Fire. From thence they proceeded to *Somerſet-Houſe* in the following Manner: The Earl of *Tankerville's* Coach, thirty two of the Embaſſador's Footmen, walking two and two; eight Pages, and the Gentleman of the Horſe mounted on Horſe- back; then came the King's Coach of State, in which were the Embaſſadors, the Earl of *Tankerville*, and the Maſter of the Ceremonies; this was follow'd by another of the King's Coaches, as was that by one of his Royal Highneſſes the Prince of *Wales*, in theſe came the ſix Gentlemen of the Privy-chamber; afterwards came five of their Excellencies Coaches drawn by eight Horſes each, which were follow'd by a numerous Train of Coaches of

the Nobility and Gentry, of six Horses each. When they arriv'd at *Somerset-House*, the Place appointed by his Majesty for their Entertainment, the Earl of *Tankerville* put them into Possession of the House, and took his Leave. Soon after came the Lord *Harborough*, with his Majesty's Complement of welcome to the Embassadors; as did the Lord *Finch*, Gentleman of the Bedchamber to his Royal Highness in waiting, and Mr. *Pulteney*, Vice-Chamberlain to her Royal Highness; both sent by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of *Wales* upon the same Occasion.

Their Excellencies were, according to Custom, nobly entertain'd at his Majesty's Cost; and, on the 12th, were conducted to their publick Audience. The Earl of *Grantham* and Sir *Clement Costerel*, Master of the Ceremonies, with six Gentlemen of his Majesty's Privy Chamber, brought them from *Somerset-House* to *St. James's* in his Majesty's Coach, follow'd by the Embassadors Coaches in the same Order as was observ'd at their Entry. Their Excellencies were receiv'd at the Palace Gate by Sir *Philip Meadows*, Master of the Horse; his Majesty's Foot-Guards were drawn up in the Court, and the Officers saluted their Excellencies with Pike and Colours, and afterwards with their Hats as they pass'd by, the Drums beating a March. They were receiv'd at the Door of the Guard Chamber by the Earl of *Uxbridge*, Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, and conducted by him to the End of his Command. They were receiv'd at the Door of the Room of Audience by the Duke of *St. Albans*, Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, who were rang'd on each Side of the Room; and conducted by the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household. And being come near the King, the Heer *Van Duvenvoirde* made the following Speech to his Majesty:

S I R,

THE Joy we feel, in beholding your Majesty seated on this August Throne, does so entirely possess our Minds, that we despair of being able, with suitable Dignity, to discharge the Commands our Lords and Masters, the States General, have laid upon us.

Never was Joy more just or better grounded, than at a Time when the Protestant Religion was threaten'd with total Ruin; when these Kingdoms were in Danger of being invaded; and our Republick had Reason to fear the greatest Calamities: At a Time when arbitrary Power and Popery expected to bring all *Europe* under their Yoke; when

when Superstition and Persecution, their inseparable Companions, arm'd with Fire and Sword, seem'd ready to destroy all.

In this Time of Fear and Distress, Heaven, by the wonderful Interposition of its Omnipotence, plac'd the Scepter in the Hands of your Majesty, to calm their Apprehensions, to protect his Church, to preserve Nations, and to assert their Liberties and Laws.

May everlasting Praises be return'd to the Almighty for it.

S I R,

Their High Mightinesses had the Honour of personally expressing to your Majesty, how deeply sensible they are of this happy Event.

They have desir'd your Majesty's Friendship and Affection, as the firmest Support of their State.

They have assur'd you, that they will do their utmost to preserve this precious Friendship, and that they have nothing more at Heart, than to live in perfect Harmony with your Majesty; and, on all Occasions, demonstrate an inviolable Attachment to your Majesty's Interests.

They have testify'd their Desire to renew the most strict Alliances, and to contribute, as far as in them lies, to improve that hearty Union so necessary to the two Nations; being founded on Principles of Religion and Liberty.

They offer'd up in the Presence of your Majesty, and still continue their Prayers to the Almighty, that the sacred Ties of this Union, form'd Time out of Mind, and knit more close during the Reigns of glorious Queen Elizabeth, and King William, whose Memory will be ever blessed by all good Men, may become indissoluble during your Majesty's Reign.

These, Sir, are the sincere and respectful Sentiments which their High Mightinesses repeat this Day by our Mouths.

Happy are the Ministers, who, like us, have Commands from their Masters so agreeable to their own Inclinations: Freed from the Trouble of labouring for obscure and equivocal Expressions, they only speak the Dictates of their Hearts.

More happy still in being able to declare those Commands to a King valiant, prudent, wise, just, equitable, gracious, and merciful, who places his Grandeur in the Exercise of those Royal and Christian Virtues!

May

May Heaven stretch beyond the common Limits, a Life adorn'd with such admirable Qualities!

May Heaven pour down upon your Majesty's Reign the choicest of his Blessings, and perpetuate the same in your Royal Family, till Time shall be no more.

Permit us, great Sir, to beseech your Majesty, graciously to accept our Endeavours, to attain the End propos'd by our Sovereigns, to render ourselves worthy of your Majesty's Protection; and to persuade your Majesty of our most humble Respects and profound Veneration.

The Audience being over, their Excellencies were re-conducted in the same Manner to their own House by the Earl of *Grantham*, the Master of the Ceremonies, and the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber.

On Monday the 14th of March, their Excellencies were conducted by the Master of the Ceremonies, to an Audience of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. They were receiv'd at the Door of his Guard Chamber by the Earl of *Hertford*, Gentleman of the Bedchamber to his Royal Highness in waiting, at the Door of the Room of Audience, his Royal Highness's Presence Chamber, they were met and conducted by the Duke of *Argyle*, Groom of the Stole to his Royal Highness, to whom they address'd themselves in the following Speech.

S I R,

THE ardent Zeal for the Defence of the Protestant Church, and of the Liberties of Europe, which shines so bright in your Royal Highness upon all Occasions; that Zeal which has made you so often expose your precious Life, and raises you so high above other Princes, gains you so great a Veneration amongst all those who love their Religion and their Country, that we think it needless to mention the other extraordinary Endowments which your Royal Highness is possess'd of in so eminent a Degree.

Our Lords and Masters the States General of the *United Provinces*, have order'd us to testify to your Royal Highness, the high Esteem they have of a Zeal so necessary.

From hence they have conceiv'd the strongest Hopes, that your Royal Highness will not refuse to support them in their Endeavours, to compleat the Security of Religion and

and Liberty, by the strictest Alliance, and by confirming the Union between these Kingdoms and their Dominions.

S I R,

Their High Mightinesses remember with Pleasure, the Assurances of Friendship which you were pleas'd to give them, when they had the Satisfaction to express to you in Person the Respect and Esteem which they have for your Royal Highness.

They earnestly press for the Continuance of that Friendship, and assure y^r Royal Highness, that nothing shall be wanting on their Part to manifest the Sincerity of their Intentions, and their inviolable Attachment to your Interests.

By the happy Advancement of his Majesty to the Crown, the black and terrible Clouds which hung over these Kingdoms, over our Republick; and over the whole Body of Protestants, are entirely dispers'd; and the Designs of your Enemies, the Favourers of Popery and arbitrary Power, quite overturn'd.

What a Source of Fears and Terrors must it have been for those who love Virtue, had the Duration of this Happiness depended upon one Life only, and did we not see in your Royal Highness a worthy Successor, able to carry on the glorious Work begun by your August Father.

But that which crowns our Joy, and confirms us in the Possession of so unexpected a Felicity, is the happy Offspring with which Heaven has been pleas'd to bless you; 'tis the Crown firmly establish'd in your Royal Family, from which, if our Prayers may be heard, it shall never depart while the World endures.

Heaven grant, Sir, that you may be always the Object of its Blessings, and of the Peoples Love; that admiring your Royal Highness's consummate Valour, most happy Genius, great Wisdom, and exact Justice, they may every Day be more and more devoted to you.

May Heaven grant you a more long, and a more happy Life than any Prince has hitherto enjoy'd.

That a Life so precious, so useful, and so necessary for the publick Welfare, may be crown'd with Prosperity, Satisfaction and Glory.

This, Sir, is what we wish from the Bottom of our Hearts: Happy if perswaded of our Esteem and Veneration, your Royal Highness vouchsafe to grant us an

Interest in your Protection, and in the Honour of your Favour.

The next Day, their Excellencies had an Audience of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, to whom they made the following Speech :

MADAM,

WE have the Honour to approach your Royal Highness with all the Respect due to your Rank ; and at the same Time, with an entire Confidence, that you will be pleas'd to grant what we desire in the Name of our Lords and Masters the States General of the *United Provinces*.

Their High Mightinesses intreat your Royal Highness to believe, that they have a high Esteem and perfect Veneration for your illustrious Person and shining Virtues.

They pray that your Royal Highness would please to support, with your powerful Influence, the Interest of their Republick : and to continue those Marks of Favour, of which they have already had such convincing Proofs, as they shall ever keep in Remembrance.

MADAM,

Our Confidence is founded upon that pious Zeal which has shone so bright in your Royal Highness for the Good of the Protestant Religion, and upon that earnest Desire which you have testify'd to see the Union confirm'd betwixt these happy Kingdoms and our Republick. An Union ! which we dare venture to say, is the firmest Support of the Church, and of the Happiness of both Nations.

'Tis with Orders, to set about a Work so necessary, to renew Alliances, and make the Ties of them indissoluble, that their High Mightinesses have sent us to this Court ; and 'tis for the Accomplishment of this great Design, that we implore the Protection of your Royal Highness.

In your most tender Years, your Royal Highness gave such illustrious Proofs of an Heart entirely devoted to God, you despis'd, with so much Courage and Firmness, those dazzling Grandeurs which combated the Duties you ow'd to Conscience, that there's nothing too great for the Protestant Religion to expect from so noble a Soul !

Besides, your Royal Highness has given such Proofs of a generous Friendship to our Republick, that we flatter ourselves

yourself, you will not deny our Masters the Favour which they expect from you.

We shall take the Liberty, Madam, to have Recourse to your Friendship, and, at the same Time, farther to admire those wonderful Qualities, which, though your Birth and Rank be high, do still raise you higher !

That Sublimity of Mind, that Prudence, that Spirit of Discernment, that Charity, that Sweetness, that Affability, and that unwearied Diligence you make Use of in the Education of your Royal Offspring, with such a happy Success, as already makes all who see them, admire them, and gives us a joyful Prospect, that one Day they will possess the Virtues of their illustrious Ancestors !

May your Royal Highness be an Eye-witness of it.

May so accomplish'd a Princess be long the Darling of Mankind !

And as God, who gave your Royal Highness Strength to refuse the Temptations of the World, seems to have destin'd you to be the Protectress of the Protestant Church ; may he enable you to support it, both by your Royal Influence, and by your Example.

May your Royal Highness be so happy as to fall upon Methods for a perfect Union betwixt all its Members, and by the Execution of that Design which hitherto has been too hard for the greatest Genius, draw down upon you more and more the Blessings of Heaven.

Accept, Madam, with that Grace and Goodness which are so natural to you, our ardent and sincere Vows, and vouchsafe to grant us the Liberty to assure your Royal Highness, that we are entirely at your Devotion.

The same Day, their Excellencies had an Audience of the two young Princesses, Daughters to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

We are led now, in Point of Time, to relate the Proceedings of the first Parliament of King George, from the Day of their Meeting on March 17, 1714, to January 9, 1715, where our *Historical Register*, N^o II, Page 139, begins that Account.

Proceedings of the Parliament of Great Britain.

On the 17th of March, the Parliament of Great Britain met at Westminster according to the Writs of Summons.

His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, in his *Robes*, was introduc'd into the House of Peers by the Right Honourable the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Steward, and the Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household, all in their Robes; being preceded by Sir *William Oldes*, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, *Clarenceux*, King at Arms, (in the Absence of *Garter* King at Arms) the Lord Great Chamberlain, and the Duke of *Argyle*, carrying on a Cushion his Royal Highness's Crown. His Royal Highness's Patent being presented to the Lord Chancellor, was read, as was also his Writ of Summons, and then his Royal Highness was plac'd in the Chair on the Right Hand of the Chair of State on the Throne: Her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, having the two young Princesses her Daughters with her, was plac'd on the Right Hand of the Prince, in a Seat rais'd on Steps equal with the Throne. His Majesty entering in his Royal Robes, and being seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent with a Message to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers: The Commons being come thither, his Majesty's Pleasure was signify'd to them by the Lord Chancellor, that they should return to their House and chuse their Speaker, and present him to his Majesty on the 21st. After his Majesty had retir'd out of the House of Peers, his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales* took the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, and made and subscrib'd the Declaration, and also took and subscrib'd the Oath of Abjuration.

As soon as the Commons were return'd to their House, the Earl of *Hertford*, Son and Heir apparent to his Grace the Duke of *Somerset*, stood up, and said, 'That according to his Majesty's Pleasure, they were immediately to proceed to the Choice of a Speaker; that, in order thereto, they ought, in the first Place, to consider, that scarce any Parliament ever met in a more critical Juncture than this, when Matters of the highest Importance were like to be laid before the House: That therefore they ought to fix their Choice upon a Person of known Parts and Abilities; and that, in his Opinion, none was every Way better qualify'd for so great an Office, than Mr. *Spencer Compton*.' His Lordship was seconded by the Lord *Finch*, eldest Son to the Earl of *Nottingham*, who enlarg'd upon Mr. *Compton*'s Abilities: Upon which Mr. *Compton* stood up, and modestly expos'd himself, saying, 'That the very Arguments urg'd by the

able Member who did him the Honour to mention him first, viz. The Criticalness of the present Juncture, and the important Matters that were like to be laid before the House, were strong Reasons for him to decline a Trust, to which he was so unequal; adding, there were now in the House several Members, who had already discharg'd it with general Satisfaction." But these Excuses were not admitted; and upon a general Cry for the Chair, Mr. Compton was carry'd to it by the two Lords before-mention'd, and chosen Speaker, *Nemine Contradicente*.

On the 21st of March, the King came to the House of Peers with the usual State and Solemnity; and the Commons being sent for, and attending, presented the Honourable *Spencer Compton*, Esq; for their Speaker; whom his Majesty approv'd: After this, his Majesty was graciously pleas'd to declare from the Throne, "That he had order'd the Lord Chancellor to declare the Causes of calling this Parliament, in his Majesty's Name and Words:" And accordingly the Lord Chancellor read to both Houses the following Speech, deliver'd into his Hands by his Majesty:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THIS being the first Opportunity that I have had of meeting my People in Parliament, since it pleas'd Almighty God, of his good Providence, to call me to the Throne of my Ancestors, I most gladly make use of it to thank my faithful and loving Subjects, for that Zeal and Firmness that hath been shewn in Defence of the Protestant Succession, against all the open and secret Practices that have been used to defeat it: And I shall never forget the Obligations I have to those who have distinguish'd themselves upon this Occasion.

It were to be wish'd, that the unparallel'd Successes of a War, which was so wisely and chearfully supported by this Nation, in order to procure a good Peace, had been attended with a suitable Conclusion: But it is with Concern I must tell you, that some Conditions even of this Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of *Great Britain*, are not yet duly executed; and the Performance of the whole may be look'd upon as precarious, until we shall have form'd defensive Alliances to guaranty the present Treaties.

The Pretender, who still resides in *Lorrain*, threatens to disturb us, and boasts of the Assistance which he still expects here to repair his former Disappointments.

A great Part of our Trade is render'd impracticable; this, if not retriev'd, must destroy our Manufactures, and ruin our Navigation.

The publick Debts are very great, and surprizingly increas'd, even since the fatal Cessation of Arms. My first Care was to prevent a farther Increase of these Debts, by paying off forthwith a great Number of Ships which had been kept in Pay, when there was no Occasion for continuing such an Expence.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I rely upon you for such Supplies as the present Circumstances of our Affairs require for this Year's Service, and for the Support of the publick Faith. The Estimates shall be laid before you, that you may consider of them; and what you shall judge necessary for your Safety, I shall think sufficient for mine.

I doubt not but you will concur with me in Opinion, that nothing can contribute more to the Support of the Credit of the Nation, than a strict Observance of all Parliamentary Engagements.

The Branches of the Revenue, formerly granted for the Support of the Civil Government, are so far incumber'd and alienated, that the Produce of the Funds which remain, and have been granted to me, will fall much short of what was at first design'd, for maintaining the Honour and Dignity of the Crown: And since it is my Happiness (as I am confident you think it yours) to see a Prince of *Wales*, who may, in due Time, succeed me on the Throne, and to see him blessed with many Children, the best and most valuable Pledges of our Care and Concern for your Prosperity; this must occasion an Expence to which the Nation has not of many Years been accus-tom'd; but such as surely no Man will grudge; and therefore I do not doubt but you will think of it with that Affection which I have Reason to hope from you.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Eyes of all *Europe* are upon you, waiting the Issue of this first Session. Let no unhappy Divisions of Parties here at Home, divert you from pursuing the common Interest of your Country: Let no wicked Insinuations disquiet the Minds of my Subjects. The establish'd Constitution in Church and State shall be the Rule of my Government.

vernment; the Happiness, Ease, and Prosperity of my People, shall be the chief Care of my Life. Those who assist me in carrying on these Measures, I shall always esteem my best Friends; and I doubt not but that I shall be able, with your Assistance, to disappoint the Designs of those who would deprive me of that Blessing, which I most value, the Affection of my People.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the two young Princesses, and a great many Ladies, were admitted into the House of Peers on this solemn Occasion; and as soon as the King was retir'd, several Peers newly created, or advanc'd to higher Titles, were introduc'd into the House of Lords: After which, that House resolv'd to present an Address of Thanks to his Majesty. The next Day the Committee appointed to draw it up, reported the same to the House as follows:

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to present to your Majesty our most humble and hearty Thanks for your Majesty's most gracious Speech to your Houses of Parliament, and to assure your Majesty, that altho' we met together with Hearts deeply sensible of the Goodness of divine Providence to us, in bringing your Majesty with Safety, and at so critical a Juncture, to the Throne of your Ancestors; yet we could not but become still more affected with that inestimable Blessing, when we heard so very affectionate Expressions from your Majesty towards your People; so clear and full Assurances from a Prince of such known Honour and Justice, that the establish'd Constitution in Church and State shall be the Rule of your Government; and so just and tender a Concern for our not having obtain'd those Advantages by the Peace, which would have been but a suitable Conclusion to so glorious and successful a War; nor as yet a due Execution of some Conditions even of that Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of this Kingdom.

We are affected with Wonder, as well as with a just Resentment, that a Pretender to your Majesty's Crown should yet be permitted to reside so near your Dominions, especially after his publick boasting of an Assistance he expects here, and his avowing a Design to invade this your Majesty's Kingdom.

We are but too sensible, that our Trade is render'd impracticable in the most valuable Branches of it, and of the ill Effects that must have upon our Manufactures and Navigation; but your Majesty may be assur'd, nothing shall be wanting on our Part, that may any Way conduce to the retrieving it.

These, and other Difficulties, your Majesty hath met with on your Accession to the Crown, (and which we must observe, in Justice to your Wisdom and Foresight, would have been prevented, had your Opinion been follow'd) we must confess are very great and discouraging; however, we do not doubt, but that your Majesty, assisted by this Parliament, zealous for your Government, and the Safety and Honour of their Country, may be able to take such farther Measures, as will secure what is due to us by Treaties, ease our Debts, preserve the publick Credit, restore our Trade, extinguish the very Hopes of the Pretender, and recover the Reputation of this Kingdom in Foreign Parts; the Loss of which, we hope to convince the World by our Actions, is by no Means to be imputed to the Nation in general.

And these good Ends cannot fail of being obtain'd, by your Majesty's pursuing with Steadiness, as you have begun, the true Interest of this your obedient and affectionate People: And your Majesty may, by God's Blessing, depend, that in Conjunction with so loyal a Parliament, you will be able to lay Foundations that can never be mov'd, not only of the Security and Glory, but even of the Ease and Tranquillity of your Government, and that of your Majesty's Posterity; for which we offer up our most ardent Prayers, that it may for ever continue to reign after your Majesty on the Throne of these Kingdoms, and in the Hearts of a People truly happy, and fully sensible of their being so.

After the Reading of this Address, there arose a great Debate in the House, chiefly about these Expressions, *And recover the Reputation of this Kingdom in Foreign Parts; the Loss of which, we hope to convince the World by our Actions, is by no Means to be imputed to the Nation in general.* The Lord Trevor, the Lord Viscount Bolingbroke, the Earl of Strafford, the Dukes of Buckingham and Shrewsbury, the Earl of Arglesey, the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London and Bristol, and some other Peers, excepted against that Clause, alledging, among other Things, 'That it was injurious to the late Queen's Memory, and even
' clashing

relating with that Part of his Majesty's Speech, which
 recommended to both Houses the avoiding the unhappy
 Divisions of Parties." The Lord Bolinbroke in particular
 made a long Speech, wherein he express'd the heartiest and
 deepest Concern for the Memory of the late Queen his
 most excellent Mistress, "Which, he said, he would do
 all in his Power to vindicate: That he had the Honour
 to be one of her Servants, and if he had done any
 Thing amiss, he would be contented to be punish'd for
 it; but that he thought it very hard to be censur'd and
 condemn'd without being heard. His Lordship took this
 Occasion to say a great deal in Praise of the King: "That
 his Majesty had several Times express'd a great Respect
 and Tenderness for the late Queen's Memory; and was
 a Prince of so great Wisdom, Equity, and Justice, that
 he was sure his Majesty would not condemn any Man,
 without hearing what he had to say for himself; that so
 August an Assembly ought to imitate so great a Pattern."
 And upon these, and other Reasons, his Lordship mov'd,
 that the Words *recomm.* &c. might be soften'd into those
 of *maintain the Reputation of this Kingdom*; and that the
 rest of the Paragraph might be left out. The Earl of
 Strafford also excepted against that Clause, amongst other
 Arguments; "Because it would expose the Honour of the
 Nation abroad, which, he was sure, had suffer'd no Di-
 minution during his Negotiations." The Duke of
 Shrewsbury said, in particular, "That the House of Peers
 ought, on all Occasions, to be most tender of the Ho-
 nour and Dignity of the Crown, from which they de-
 rive their own Honour and Lustre: That therefore, when
 the like Clause was inserted in an Address of the House
 of Commons to the late Queen, upon the Death of King
 William, he had express'd to several Members of that
 House his Dislike of it, because it reflected on the Me-
 mory of that Prince; and, for the said Reason, he was
 against the said Clause." These, and other Arguments
 urg'd on that Side, were answer'd by the Marquess of
 Wharton, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Nottingham, and
 the Earl of Ailesford, the Duke of Devonshire, and some
 other Peers, who express'd all the Respect and Reverence
 for the late Queen's Memory, rightly distinguish'd be-
 tween her and her Ministry; and maintain'd the Clause
 in Question, by Arguments drawn from the Mismanage-
 ment of the latter, hinted at in his Majesty's Speech.
 The Lord Chancellor, in particular, taking Notice of the
 Objections rais'd by the Lord Bolinbroke; among other
 Things,

Things, said, ' They did not condemn any particular Person, but only the Peace in general, because they felt the ill Consequences of it: That they who advis'd and made such a Peace, deserv'd indeed to be censur'd; but that the Words in the Address being general, no private Person was affected by them; and that the Alteration of the Word *recover* into that of *maintain*, would signify no more towards the *Justification* of the *Guilty*, than the Word *recover* towards the *Condemnation* of the *Innocent*. Upon the whole Matter, the Question being put, whether the Address should be recommitted or no, the Negative carry'd it by a Majority of 66 Voices against 33. The next Day the House of Lords in a Body presented their Address to the King, who return'd the following most gracious Answer:

My Lords,

I Thank you heartily for this Address: Your Duty and Loyalty to me can never be better express'd, than by showing a just Concern for the Reputation and Interest of the Nation, since I have no other Thought or View, but to promote the Prosperity and Happiness of my People.

Before the Lords waited on the King with their Address, they adjourn'd themselves to the Monday following; then again to Wednesday the 30th of March; and then again to the 1st of April.

Let's now attend the Proceedings of the Commons.

On the 21st of March, Mr. Speaker alone, and then the other Members, took the Oaths, and made and subscrib'd the Declaration, and took and subscrib'd the Oath of Adjuration, according to the Laws made for those Purposes; as did other Members the 22d, 23d, and following Days. On the 23d, a Bill for the more effectual preventing and punishing the stealing and unlawful killing of Cattle, was read the first Time, and order'd a second Reading: After which, Mr. Speaker having reported to the House his Majesty's Speech, Robert Walpole, Esq; made a Speech, in which he set forth the great Happiness of these Nations by his Majesty's seasonable Accession to the Crown; ra through the Mismanagements of the four last preceding Years; and concluded with a Motion for an Address of Thanks to the King, conformable to the several Heads of his Majesty's Speech. He was seconded by the Lord Hinchinbroke; and none but Sir William Whitlocke having

rais'd any Objection against Mr. *Walpole's* Motion, it was resolv'd,

That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to express our just Sense of the Divine Providence, in placing his Majesty on the Throne of his Ancestors: To return his Majesty the Thanks of this House for his most gracious Speech from the Throne; for his Assurances that the establish'd Constitution in Church and State shall be the Rule of his Government; and for his Goodness express'd to those who distinguish'd themselves by their Zeal and Firmness for the Protestant Succession: To express our Concern, that any Conditions of the late Peace essential to the Security and Trade of *Great Britain*, are not yet duly executed: That such Alliances have not been form'd as are necessary to render the Peace durable: That our Manufactures and Navigation are in such Hazard, by the Difficulties brought upon our Commerce: And that the publick Debts are greatly encreas'd even since the Cessation of Arms: To declare our highest Resentment against the presumptuous Declaration of the Pretender, and the Encouragement he boasts to have receiv'd from hence; and to assure his Majesty, that we will demonstrate our just Sense of the great Blessings derived to these Nations in the Person of the Prince of *Wales*, and his Issue, by enabling his Majesty to support the Dignity of the Crown, and to make an honourable Provision for the Royal Family: And that we will likewise grant such Supplies as shall be necessary for the Service of the Year, and for maintaining Parliamentary Credit; and will support his Majesty in such Alliances as he shall judge necessary to make for preserving the Peace of *Europe*.

This Vote being pass'd, a Committee was appointed to draw up the said Address, of which Mr. *Walpole* was chosen Chairman: And then, according to Custom, the House appointed the *Five Grand Committees*, for *Religion, Grievances, Courts of Justice, Trade, Privileges and Elections*; pass'd several Resolutions about Elections; and made the usual Regulations relating to the sitting of the House.

March 24, Some Commissioners of the Customs attended, and presented to the House, according to former standing Orders, a Report of the Commissioners of the Customs, with several Accounts of prohibited *East-India* Goods. Then the House taking Notice, by the Book of Returns, that the Sheriff of the County of *Leicester* had not return'd any Knights of the Shire to serve in this Parliament for the said County, and that he had made a special Return why

why he had not return'd such Knights; the said Special Return was read, by which he certify'd, *That he was assaulted in the Execution of the Writ, and that the Election was prevented by Riots.* And the House being inform'd, that there had been two Petitions left with the Clerk of the House, (pursuant to a standing Order of the House) relating to the Proceedings in the Execution of the Writ directed for the Election of Knights of the Shire for the said County, viz. A Petition of *George Astby, Esq;* and *Thomas Byrd, Esq;* and also a Petition of *Sir George Beaumont, Bart.* *James Winstanley, William Inge, and Samuel Bracebridge, Esqs.* on Behalf of themselves, and several other Freeholders of the County of *Leicester*: These Petitions being read, it was order'd, that Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new Writ, for the electing Knights of the Shire for the said County of *Leicester*: 2. That the Matter of the said Special Return be taken into consideration upon Monday Fortnight; and 3dly, that Mr. *William Baresby*, Under-Sheriff of the County of *Leicester*, do attend this House upon what Day. After this, the House taking also Notice by the Book of Returns, that there was no Return made for the County of *Cumberland*, order'd, that the Sheriff of that County do forthwith attend this House, to give an Account why there was no Return of Members for the said County. Then Mr. *Walpole* reported from the Committee beforemention'd, the Address of Thanks to be presented to his Majesty, as follows:

Most Gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, return your Majesty their unfeigned Thanks for your most gracious Speech from the Throne.

'Tis with inexpressible Joy that we approach your Majesty, peaceably seated upon the Throne of your Royal Ancestors; and being thoroughly sensible of the many open and secret Practices that have of late Years been used to defeat the Protestant Succession, we cannot sufficiently adore the Divine Providence, that so seasonably interposed, and saved this Nation by your Majesty's happy Accession to the Crown.

Your faithful Commons receive with the highest Gratitude, your most gracious Assurances, that the established Constitution in Church and State, shall be the Rule of your Government; and the Safety, Ease, and Prosperity of

of your People, the chief Care of your Life. We are sensible of your Goodness expressed to those who have distinguished themselves by their Zeal and Firmness for the Protestant Succession: And as we doubt not, but the Wisdom and Steadiness of your Government will unite the Hearts of all your faithful Subjects in Duty and Affection to your Sacred Person, so we most humbly beg Leave to assure your Majesty, that we not only highly resent the wicked Insinuations used to disquiet the Minds of your Subjects, but are resolved, to the utmost of our Power, to suppress and extinguish that evil Disposition that is still at work to deprive your Majesty of the Affections of your People.

We are sensibly touch'd, not only with the Disappointment, but with the Reproach brought upon the Nation by the unsuitable Conclusion of a War, which was carry'd on at so vast an Expence, and was attended with such unparalleled Successes: But as that Dishonour cannot in Justice be imputed to the whole Nation, so we firmly hope and believe, that thro' your Majesty's great Wisdom, and the faithful Endeavours of your Commons, the Reputation of these your Kingdoms will in due Time be vindicated and restor'd.

We are under Astonishment to find, that any Conditions of the late Peace, essential to the Security and Trade of Great Britain, should not be duly executed; and that Care was not taken to form such Alliances, as might have render'd that Peace not precarious. And as no Care shall be wanting in your loyal Commons to enquire into these fatal Miscarriages, so we entirely rely on your Majesty's Wisdom, to enter into such Alliances as you shall judge necessary to preserve the Peace of Europe; and we faithfully promise to enable your Majesty to make good all such Engagements.

It is with just Resentment we observe, that the Pretender still resides in Lorrain, and that he has the Presumption, by Declarations from thence, to stir up your Majesty's Subjects to Rebellion: But that which raises the utmost Indignation of your Commons is, that it appears therein, that his Hopes were built upon the Measures that had been taken for some Time past in Great Britain. It shall be our Business to trace out those Measures whereon he placed his Hopes, and to bring the Authors of them to condign Punishment.

Our Commons are under the deepest Concern, that a great Part of our Trade is render'd impracticable, which, not retriev'd, must destroy our Manufactures, and ruin

our

our Navigation: But tho' we are too sensible of those fatal Consequences, we are not yet without Hopes, that your Majesty's great Wisdom, by the Assistance of your Commons, may find Means to extricate your People from their present Difficulties.

The Blessings derived to these Nations from your Majesty's auspicious Reign, are not confined to the present Times; we have a Prospect of future and lasting Happiness entail'd upon your People by a long Succession of your Royal Progeny. And as this is a Blessing which these Kingdoms have a long Time wanted, so they could never hope to have seen it so well supply'd, as in the Person of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and his Issue. Your faithful Commons shall therefore think it their Duty to enable your Majesty to support the Dignity of the Crown, and to make an honourable Provision for the Royal Family.

The surprizing Increase of the publick Debts, even since all Thoughts of carrying on the War were laid aside, shall not discourage us from granting such Supplies as shall be necessary for the Service of this Year, and the Support of Publick Faith: And we do entirely concur with your Majesty in Opinion that nothing can contribute more towards preserving the Credit of the Nation, than a strict Observance of all Parliamentary Engagements, which we are firmly resolv'd upon all Occasions inviolably to maintain.

Upon the Reading of this Address, there arose a warm Debate in the House: Mr. Shippen, Mr. Bromley, Sir William Wyndham, General Ross, Mr. Cesar, Mr. Ward, Sir Robert Raymond, Sir William Whitlocke, Mr. Hungerford, and some others, rais'd several Objections against divers Expressions in the Address; but were answer'd by Mr. Robert Walpole, General Stanhope, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, and Mr. Pulteney. General Ross, among the rest, insisted much, 'That the condemning the Peace, and censuring the late Ministry, was a Reflection on the late Queen, whose Act and Deed the Peace was; and that he was sure the reflecting on the late Queen, could not be agreeable to his present Majesty.' He was answer'd by Mr. Walpole, and Mr. Stanhope, 'That nothing was farther from their Intentions, than to asperse the late Queen; that they rather designed to vindicate her Memory, by exposing and punishing those evil Counsellors, who deluded her into pernicious Measures; whereas, the opposite Party

endeavour'd

endeavour'd to screen and justify those Counsellors, by throwing on that good, pious, and well-meaning Prince, all the Blame and Odium of their evil Counsels. To what was alledg'd, that the censuring the late Ministers, without hearing them, and condemning the Peace, without examining into Particulars, was unjust and unprecedented, it was answer'd, 'That they must distinguish between censuring Ministers, and condemning the Peace in general, and condemning particular Persons. That they might, in Equity and Justice do the first, because the whole Nation is already sensible that their Honour and true Interest were given up by the late Peace; that in due Time they would call them to an Account, who made and advis'd such a Peace; but God forbid they should ever condemn any Person unheard.' On this occasion, Mr. Stanhope took Notice of a Report industriously spread abroad, 'That the present Ministers never designed to call the late Managers to an Account, but only to censure them in general Terms: But he assur'd the House, that notwithstanding all the Endeavours had been us'd to prevent a Discovery of the late Mismanagements, by conveying away several Papers from the Secretaries Offices, yet the Government had sufficient Evidence left, to prove the late Ministry the most corrupt that ever sat at the Helm: That those Matters would soon be laid before the House; and that it would appear, that a certain *English* General had acted in Concert with, if not receiv'd Orders from, Marshal Villars.

Sir William Wyndham endeavour'd to prove, that the Peace had been very beneficial to this Kingdom; and offer'd to produce a List of Goods, by which it appear'd, that the Customs had increas'd near 100,000*l.* per Annum. At he was immediately taken up by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, who readily own'd, Sir William might, indeed, produce a List of vast Imports from France, but desy'd him to shew that our Exports thither, particularly of our Woollen Manufactures, had increas'd since the Peace. He added, that Imports being only our Consumption, rather prove a Loss than our Gain; and that the Nation gets only by Exports, which keep up our Manufactures, employ our poor, and bring in Returns in Money; to which Sir William Wyndham made no Reply. Nor far'd it better with Sir William Whitlocke, who having suggested, that the Whigs desy'd to involve the Nation in a new War, and lay Six millions in the Pound, was assur'd by Mr. Walpole, that one in the present Ministry, were for a War, if the

same

same could any Ways be avoided; and that he doub't not, but Two Shillings in the Pound would be sufficient towards this Year's Service.

After these, and some other Speeches, a Motion being made, and the Question put, That the Address of Thanks be recommitted, it pass'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 244 Voices against 138; and then it was resolv'd, That the House do agree with the Committee in the said Address; and order'd, that the Members of the House, who are of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, should know his Majesty's Pleasure, when he would be attended by the House. The King having appointed the next Day, the Commons, with their Speaker, attended his Majesty accordingly at St. James's, with their Address, to which his Majesty return'd this most gracious Answer:

Gentlemen,

I Thank you for the many kind Assurances you have given me in your dutiful and loyal Address.

No endeavours shall be wanting on my Part, to promote your true Interest, and endear my self to all my People: And I will depend on your Zeal and Affection, to defeat all evil Designs, that may tend to disquiet the Minds of my People, and disturb the Tranquillity of my Government.

The Speaker having, on the 26th of March, reported his Majesty's Answer, it was resolv'd, to present an humble address to his Majesty, to return the most humble Thanks of this House, for his most gracious Answer to their Address.

March 29, the Order of the Day being read, for taking into Consideration his Majesty's Speech to both Houses, the same was read again by Mr. Speaker, and a Motion being made for a Supply to be granted to his Majesty, it was resolv'd, that the House would on the 28th, resolve it self into a Grand Committee, to consider of that Motion.

Upon Information some Members of the House of Commons had receiv'd, that vast Quantities of French Gold had of late been imported, and brought into the Tower to be coin'd; and in order to find out the Persons to whom the same had been remitted, which might give a Handle for further Discoveries: A Motion was made, and it was thereupon resolv'd, 'That an Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct the proper Officers

Officers to lay before this House an Account of what Gold and Silver had been coin'd at his Majesty's Mint in the Tower of London from Lady-Day 1713 to Lady-Day 1715; and also an Account of what Gold and Silver remain'd in the Tower in order for Coinage at Lady-Day 1715: And also an Account of the several Denominations and Species, in which the said Gold and Silver were brought into the Tower." After this, the House proceeded to the Reading the Petitions left with the Clerk of the House, relating to controverted Elections, to the Number of about 112; of which 25 were read that Day, and the other the following Days; and most of them refer'd to the Consideration of the Committee of Privileges and Elections; and a few order'd to be heard at the Bar of the House.

On the 28th of March, the Commons being inform'd, that *John Richmond Webb*, Esq; desir'd the Opinion of the House, in relation to his taking his Place in the House, in respect to his being constituted Governour of the *Ile of Wight*, by Lettets Patents which pass'd the Great Seal since his Election, but issu'd pursuant to a Warrant granted before the Election; the said Warrant and Letters Patents were order'd to be laid before the House. Then the House resolv'd itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Supply, of which Committee *Mr. Farrer* was chosen Chairman; and having consider'd of the Motion made the Friday before, it was resolv'd, *That a Supply be granted to his Majesty*. This Resolution was the next Day reported, and agreed to by the House; after which, it was resolv'd to address his Majesty for several States, Accounts, and Estimates, viz.

1. An Account of the Deficiency of the Money granted in the Year 1714.
2. An Estimate of the Ordinary of the Navy, for the Year 1715, with the Half-pay of the Officers of the Navy and Marines, and what may be further necessary for extraordinary Repairs of the Fleet.
3. An Account of the Extraordinaries for Guards, Garrisons, and Land-Forces for the Year 1714; and also of the growing Charges for the same, for the Year 1715.
4. An Estimate of the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, for the Year 1715.
5. A State of the Debt of the Navy to Christmas last.
6. An Account of all the Ships in Sea-Pay, employ'd in 1714.

7. A List of the Regimental and Warrant Officers, that are to be in Half-Pay, for the Year 1715.

8. An Account of the several Officers in Half-Pay, for the last Year, that have been provided for, or are since dead.

9. An Account of the Capital and Annual Fund of the *South Sea Company*, for the Year 1715. And,

10. An Account of what Ships have been paid off since the Cessation of Arms, by what Orders, when dated, and at what Times paid off. All which Papers the King order'd to be laid before the House by the proper Officers.

The same Day, the Warrant and Patents constituting *John Richmond Webb, Esq;* Governor of the *Isle of Wight*, being laid before the House, the same, and also several Sections of the Act of the Sixth Year of *Q. Anne*, Chap. 7. entituled, *An Act for the Security of her Majesty's Person and Government, and the Succession to the Crown of Great Britain in the Protestant Line*, were read: After which, *General Webb* took his Place in the House, the said Act being judg'd not to affect his Case. That Evening, the Grand Committee of Privileges and Elections sat the first Time, and chose for their Chairman *Richard Hambden, Esq;*

March 30, The Commons read most of the remaining Petitions about controverted Elections, proceeded to the reading of the rest, on the last Day of this Month; and amongst others, read two Petitions of *Edward Harley, Esq;* commonly call'd *Lord Harley*, complaining of undue Elections and Returns for the Borough of *New Radnor*, and for the Borough of *Bishops Castle* in the County of *Salop*.

March 31, The Commons resolv'd, that seven several humble Addresses should be presented to his Majesty, by such Members of the House as were of the Privy-Council, That his Majesty would direct that the several following Papers to be laid before the House, viz.

1. All Powers, Instructions, Memorials, Letters, and Papers, relating to the late Negotiations of Peace and Commerce, and to the Cessation of Arms.

2. The Proceedings relating to the Demolition of *Dunkirk*.

3. The Representation from the *Russia Company*, and the Merchants trading to the *East-Country*.

4. The Representations and Memorials from the Merchants trading to *Spain* and the *West-Indies*.

5. An Account of the Proceedings at the Courts of the *South-Sea Company*, relating to the *Assiento* and *South-Sea Trade*.

6. The several Memorials of the Clothiers to the Commissioners of Trade, and what Directions the said Commissioners receiv'd relating to such Memorials.

7. The Representations and Memorials of the *Turky* Company, and of the *Italian* Merchants.

April 1. The House of Lords met according to their last Adjournment, and adjourn'd farther to the 11th.

The same Day the Commons order'd, that Dr. *Ambrey* be desir'd to preach before this House upon the 29th of *May*. Then in a grand Committee on the Supply, came to the following Resolutions :

1. That Ten Thousand Men be allow'd for the Sea-Service for the Year 1715, beginning from the 1st Day of *January* 1714.

2. That a Sum not exceeding 4*l.* per Man per Month, be allow'd for maintaining the said Ten Thousand Men for 12 Months, including the Ordnance for Sea-Service.

3. That a Sum not exceeding 538678*l.* 1*s.* be granted to his Majesty, to make good, for the Services of the Navy, the like Sum, which in the Year commencing from *Christmas* 1714, to be paid by the Treasurer of the Navy, by quarterly Payments to the *South-Sea* Company pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that Behalf: Which Resolutions were the next Day reported, and agreed to by the House.

The Day before several Estimates relating to the Office of Ordnance, and the Navy, were laid before the Commons pursuant to former Addresses; and it was resolved, to present other Addresses to his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct the proper Officers to lay before the House,

1. An Estimate of the Half-Pay of the Officers and Chaplains who had serv'd well in the Trains of Artillery in *Flanders* and *Spain*, and on several Expeditions; with what Allowances they have on the Establishment in the Office of Ordnance, and what would be requir'd to complete their Half-Pay.

2. That the respective Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs for *England* and *Scotland*, do lay before this House an Account of all Woollen Manufactures, and of all Lead, Tin, and Fish that have been exported from *Great Britain*, in the several Years from *Christmas* 1708 to *Christmas* 1714 respectively; and to what Places, and in what Ships exported; and also an Account of the gross and real Produce of the Customs for the same Time; and also an Account of the Produce of the Customs for Wine and

Brandy for the same Time; and also an Account of all Woollen Manufactures exported from England, from Christmas 1697 to Christmas 1699.

3. That the Propositions of France, to exclude themselves from all Trade of their Subjects and Ships to the Spanish West-Indies with a Reservation of the *Affiento* Contract and licens'd Ships granted to Great Britain, be laid before this House.

4. That an Account of the Fishing Ships and Saicks employ'd at Newfoundland from Christmas 1708 to Christmas 1714, and also a State of the Trade there for the same Time, with all Memorials and Representations relating thereto, and to the Cession of Cape Breton to France; and also a Representation of the Fishery and Trade of the Island of St. Peters, yielded on the Peace from France to Great Britain, be laid before this House.

5. All Representations and Memorials presented in the four last Years by the Swedish Minister residing here, relating to the Navigation and Trade of the Baltick; and also all Representations and Memorials presented by him, relating to fitting out Ships of War here for the Service of the Czar of Muscovy.

6. An Account of what Logwood, Fustick, Indigo, and other Materials or Drugs for dying, have been sent to France since the late Peace concluded at Utrecht.

7. An Account of the gross and neat Produce of the Excise and Customs in that Part of Great Britain call'd Scotland, since the Union of the Kingdoms, and to what Uses the said Revenues have been apply'd.

April 2. Mr. Secretary Stanhope reported to the House, that their several Addresses of the 31st of March, and of Yesterday, having been presented to the King, his Majesty had been pleas'd to give Directions for the laying before this House the Accounts and Matters therein mention'd.

On the 4th of April the Commons in a grand Committee on Ways and Means to raise the Supply, came to a Resolution, which was order'd to be reported the next Day. Then upon a Complaint made to the House, that Mr. Charles Chambers, Mayor of the Town of Cambridge, being serv'd with an Order of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, for permitting Mr. Shephard and Mr. Jenyns, or their Agents, to inspect the Records, Charters, and publick Books and Writings of the said Town, and having refus'd to obey the said Order it was resolv'd, that the said Mr. Charles Chambers be, for the said Contempt, taken into the Custody of the Serjeant

at Arms attending this House. It was also resolv'd, upon another Complaint, that *Thomas Grosby*, Under-Sheriff of the County of *Cumberland*, having neglected to return the Writ for electing the Members of the said County by the 17th of *March* last, being the Day appointed for the Return thereof, was guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of this House, and order'd, that he be, for the said Breach of Privilege, taken into Custody of the Serjeant at Arms.

April 5. The Commons resolv'd to address his Majesty, that all Powers, Instructions, Memorials, Letters, and Papers relating to the Negotiations of Peace at the *Hague* in 1709, and the Preliminaries negociated at *Gertruydenberg*, together with the said Preliminaries, and the Ratification of them, be laid before this House: After which, *Mr. Farrer*, Chairman of the grand Committee of the Supply, reported the Resolution which they came to the Day before, and which the House agreed to, being as follows, viz. That towards raising the Supply granted to his Majesty, the Sum of 2s. In the Pound, and no more, be rais'd in the Year 1715, upon all Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, Pensions, Offices, and personal Estates, in that Part of *Great Britain*, call'd *England*, *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*; and that a proportionable Cess, according to the ninth Article of the Treaty of Union, be laid upon that Part of *Great Britain* call'd *Scotland*. And a Bill was order'd to be brought in upon the said Resolution.

This done, upon a Motion made, that the House would appoint a Day to take into Consideration his Majesty's Proclamation of the 15th of *January* last for calling a new Parliament, the same was read accordingly. Sir *William Whistock*, Member of Parliament for the University of *Oxford*, having made some Exceptions to the said Proclamation as unprecedented and unwarrantable, he was call'd upon by some Members of the Court Party to explain himself; upon which he made a Kind of Excuse for what he had said. The Thing would have been drop'd, had not Sir *William Wyndham* took up the Cudgels, and even carry'd the Matter further, by advancing, that the said Proclamation was not only unprecedented and unwarrantable, but even of dangerous Consequence to the very Being of Parliaments. The Courtiers could not but take Notice of so home a Reflection, and thereupon call'd upon Sir *William Wyndham* to justify his Charge; but Sir *William*, who rightly judg'd he could not descend to Particulars

ticulars without giving farther Offence, declin'd explaining himself; tho' at the same Time, he resolutely maintain'd his first Assertion, saying, ' That as he thought ' some Expressions in the said Proclamation of dangerous ' Consequence, so he believ'd every Member was free to ' speak his Thoughts." He was answer'd, ' No doubt but ' every Member has that Liberty, Freedom of Speech ' being one of the essential Privileges of that House; but ' that the House has, at the same Time, both the Liberty ' and Power to censure and punish such Members as transgress the Rules of Decency, trespass upon the Respect ' due to the Crown, and so abuse the Privilege of the ' House within Doors, as to render it contemptible without." Sir William being again call'd upon to explain himself, and still persisting in his Refusal, some Members cry'd the *Tower*, the *Tower*; but Robert Walpole, Esq; warded off the Blow by Words to the following Purpose: ' Mr. Speaker, I am not for gratifying the Desire which ' the Members, who occasions this great Debate, shews of ' being sent to the *Tower*; 'twould make him too considerable: But as he is a young Man of good Parts, who ' sets up for a warm Champion of the late Ministry, and ' one who was in all their Secrets, I would have him be ' in the House when we come to enquire into the Conduct ' of his Friends, both that he may have an Opportunity ' to defend them, and be a Witness of the Fairness with ' which we shall proceed against those Gentlemen; and ' that it may not be said, that we take any Advantage ' against them." After several other Speeches, which prolong'd this Debate from One till half an Hour past Five in the Afternoon, a Motion was made, and the Question put, that the House do now adjourn, which being carry'd in the Negative by a Majority of 212 Voices against 134, a Motion was made, and the Question propos'd, That Sir William Wyndham having reflected upon his Majesty's Proclamation of the 15th of January last for calling a new Parliament, and having refus'd to justify his Charge, although often call'd upon so to do, is guilty of a great Indignity to his Majesty, and of a Breach of the Privilege of this House." This Motion occasion'd a fresh Debate, that lasted till seven of the Clock; the Courtiers still insisting, that Sir William Wyndham should justify his Charge, and Sir William as obstinately declining to do it, saying, *He was ready to undergo whatever a Majority might inflict upon him.* At last the Question being put

put that Sir William Wyndham should withdraw, the same was carry'd in the Affirmative by 208 Voices against 129, whereupon Sir William withdrew accordingly; and with him, to a Man, all the 129 Members who had been for the Negative. Their Antagonists being thus entire Masters of the Field, the Question was put, and unanimously resolv'd, That Sir William Wyndham, having reflected upon his Majesty's Proclamation of the 15th of January last for calling a new Parliament, and having refus'd to justify his Charge, although often call'd upon so to do, is guilty of a great Indignity to his Majesty, and of a Breach of the Privilege of this House: After which, it was order'd, That Sir William Wyndham be (for the said Offence) reprimanded in his Place by Mr. Speaker: And that Sir William Wyndham do attend this House in his Place to Morrow Morning. [The Proclamation is inserted above, Page 88]

Sir William Wyndham attending the next Day in his Place, Mr. Speaker address'd himself to him in this Manner.

Sir William Wyndham,

I Am to acquaint you that the House has come to this Resolution, that you be reprimanded in your Place by me.

You have presum'd to reflect on his Majesty's Proclamation, and made an unwarrantable Use of the Freedom of Speech granted by his Majesty.

This House has made their Moderation appear, and shewn their Lenity, by laying the mildest Censure your Offence was capable of; I am order'd to reprimand you, and do reprimand you accordingly.

To which Sir William Wyndham reply'd:

S I R,

I Return you my Thanks for what you have done by the Duty of your Office, in so candid and so gentleman-like a Manner: As I am a Member of this House, I very well know I must acquiesce in the Determination of this House.

But I am not conscious of any Indignity to his Majesty, or any Breach of the Privilege of this House; and therefore I have no Thanks to give those Gentlemen, who, under Pretence of Lenity, have brought this Censure upon me.

On the 6th of April, Mr. Farrer presented to the House a Bill for granting an Aid to his Majesty, to be rais'd By a Land-Tax in Great Britain, which was receiv'd, read the

first Time, and order'd to be read a second Time. It was also order'd, That the Agent for Taxes do lay before the House, an Account of what Money has been paid in for the first half Year of the Land Tax and Window Tax for the Year 1714, and what remains in Arrear of former Years, distinguish'd under proper Heads, &c. Then the House having resolv'd itself into a Committee of the whole House on the Supply, and consider'd of several Estimates, made some Progress in that Matter, and afterwards adjourn'd the further Consideration of 'the Supply to the 8th.

April 7. After the second Reading of the Land-Tax Bill, and committing the same to a Committee of the whole House, the Commons resolv'd to address his Majesty, for an Account of the Deficiency at *Michaelmas* 1714, of the yearly Fund of 186670*l.* of the Classis Lottery of Two Millions in the Year 1711; as also for an Account of the Deficiency at *Michaelmas* 1714, of the yearly Fund of 168003*l.* for the Classis Lottery of 1800000*l.* in the Year 1712. Then the Clerk of the Crown attending, according to Order, with the Return for the Burghs of *Elgine, Bamf, Cullen, Kintore, and Inverurie*, the same was read; and the Minutes of the *Sederunt*, taken at *Kintore* the 16th Day of *February* last, at the electing a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the said Burghs, having been left with the Clerk, and afterwards read, the Question was put, whether the Honourable *James Murray, Esq;* was duly return'd a Burgess for the said Burghs, which being carry'd in the Negative, it was resolv'd, that *John Campbell of Mamore, Esq;* ought to have been return'd a Burgess for the said District of Burghs. Then it was order'd, that the Clerk of the Crown should amend with the said Return, which he did immediately; and that the Honourable *James Murray, Esq;* have Liberty to petition the House within fourteen Days next, if he thought fit, in Relation to the Election for the said District of Burghs.

On the 8th of *April*, the Commons, in a grand Committee on the Supply, resolv'd,

1st, That there be allow'd 9956 Men (Commission and Non-Commission Officers included) for Guards and Garrisons in *Great Britain, Jersey, and Guernsey*, and for his Majesty's Plantations in *America*, for the Year 1715, over and above the twelve Companies of Invalids, and three independent Companies in *North Britain*.

2^{dly}, That

2dly, That there be granted to his Majesty, the Sum of 425900*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* for maintaining Guards and Garrisons in Great Britain, Jersey, and Guernsey, the Forces in America, and the twelve Companies of Invalids, and three independent Companies in North Britain, for the Year 1715.

3dly, The Sum of 57759*l.* 1*q**s.* 7*d.* for maintaining his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons in Minorca for the Year 1715.

4thly, 37192*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* for maintaining his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons in Gibraltar, for the Year 1715.

And 5thly, 35912*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* for maintaining the three Regiments in Flanders for the Year 1715.

Which Resolutions were the next Day (*April 9.*) reported, and agreed to by the House. The same Day, upon a Motion made by Mr. Pulteney, Secretary at War, a Bill was order'd to be brought in, for punishing Mutiny and Desertion and false Musters, and for the better Payment of the Army and Quarters. After this, Mr. Secretary Stanhope presented to the House, pursuant to their Address to his Majesty for that Purpose, all the Powers, Instructions, Memorials, Letters, and Papers relating to the late Negotiation of Peace and Commerce, and to the Cessation of Arms, which he deliver'd in at the Table in twelve Volumes, bound up and number'd, and three other small Books. He took this Occasion to tell the House, ' That nothing had been omitted, that might either answer ' the Desire they had express'd of being thoroughly inform'd of what had pass'd in those important Negotiations, or to satisfy the whole World, that the present Ministry acted with the utmost Fairness and Candour, and ' design'd to take no Manner of Advantage over the late Managers in the intended Enquiries: That, indeed, the ' Papers now laid before the House were only Copies, but ' that the Originals would be produc'd if Occasion requir'd: Concluding, That those Papers being too many, ' and too Voluminous to be perus'd and examin'd by all ' the Members of the House, he thought it more convenient, and therefore mov'd, that the said Books and ' Papers be referr'd to a select Committee of twenty Persons, who should digest the Substance of them under proper Heads, and report the same, with their Observations thereupon to the House. Mr. Ward, a Lawyer, said, ' Nothing could be fairer. That for his own Part, tho' his Principle was that Kings can do no Wrong, yet he ' was

was of Opinion, that Ministers are accountable for their Male-Administration.

The Earl of *Oxford* who had been out of Town for some Days, being come to Town the Night before, his Brother, Mr. Auditor (*Edward*) *Harley*, a Member of the House of Commons, took that Opportunity to say, 'That 'twas easy to see that one of his nearest Relations was principally aim'd at, in the intended Inquiries; but he might assure the House, that the said Person, notwithstanding the various Reports had been spread concerning him, would neither fly his Country, nor conceal himself, but be forth-coming whenever he should be call'd upon to justify his Conduct. That he hop'd he would be able, upon the severest Trial, to make his Innocence appear to all the World; but if he should be so unhappy as to have been guilty of the Crimes that were laid to his Charge, he would think all his Blood too small a Sacrifice to atone for them.' No body oppos'd Mr. Secretary *Stanhope's* Motion: Mr. *Hungerford* only excepted against the Number of Twenty, and mov'd that One more might be added; which being readily agreed to, it was resolv'd,

1. That the Books and Papers before-mention'd be referr'd to a Committee.
2. That the said Committee be a Committee of Secrecy.
3. That the Number of the said Committee be One and Twenty.
4. That the said Committee be chosen by Way of Balloting.
5. That the Members of the House, should on the Monday following, at Twelve of the Clock, prepare Lists to be put into Glasses of One and Twenty Persons Names to be the said Committee; and order'd, that the said Books do remain with the Clerk of this House, seal'd as they were then, until the said Committee were chosen.

On the 11th of *April*, the Members in *Westminster-Hall*, and *Court of Requests*, having been summon'd by the Sergeant at Arms to attend the Service of the House, the Clerk and Clerk-Assistant went on each Side the House with Glasses, to receive from the Members the Lists of Persons Names to be the Committee of Secrecy; and the same being receiv'd, and brought up to the Table, a Committee was appointed, and order'd to withdraw immediately into the Speaker's Chamber; and that they should report to the House, upon which One and Twenty Persons the Majority fell. Two Days after, *April* 13, Mr. *Bladen* reported from that Committee, that the Majority had

had fallen upon the One and Twenty Persons following
viz.

Sir Richard Onslow, Bart.	Algernon Earl of Hertford.
Robert Walpole, Esq;	Edward Wortley Montague.
Spencer Comper, Esq;	Sir Edward Dairimple, Bart.
James Stanhope, Esq;	George Bailie, Esq;
Hugh Boscawen, Esq;	Sir Joseph Jekyll, Kt.
William Pultney, Esq;	Thomas Earl, Esq;
Nicholas Lechmere, Esq;	Richard Hampden, Esq;
Daniel Lord Finch.	Sir Robert Marsham, Bart.
John Aislaby, Esq;	Alexander Denton, Esq;
Thomas Vernon, Esq; of	Thomas Pitt, Sen. Esq;
Worcestershire.	Thomas Lord Coningsby.

An Objection being made by some Members, to Sir Joseph Jekyll's being one of the said Committee, he having not taken the Oaths at the Table; it was readily answer'd, that the same was not owing to any voluntary neglect, Sir Joseph Jekyll being employ'd in the Circuits, as Judge of the County Palatine of Chester. Whereupon it was resolv'd, That Sir Joseph Jekyll being a Member of this House, was capable of being chosen of the Committee of Secrecy, altho' he had not been sworn at the Table, and order'd, 1. That the Books and Papers which were order'd to remain in the Custody of the Clerk, 'till this Committee was chosen, be deliver'd to the said Committee; and that they do examine the same, and report to the House what they found material in them; and that they, or any five of them, do meet this Afternoon, and sit *de die in diem*; 2. That the said Committee have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Accordingly, the Committee of Secrecy met that Evening, and chose Robert Walpole, Esq; for their Chairman; but that Gentleman being the very next Day taken ill, the Committee chose Mr. Secretary Stanhope to supply his Place of Chairman, and for Dispatch Sake, subdivided themselves into three Committees, to each of which a certain Number of Books and Papers were allotted.

April 11, The Mayor of Cambridge was, upon his Petition brought to the Bar of the House of Commons, where, on his Knees, he receiv'd a Reprimand from Mr. Speaker, and was discharg'd out of Custody, paying his Fees. The same Day, Mr. Baresby, the Under-Sheriff of the County of Leicesher, attending (according to the Order of the 24th Day of March last) he was brought in to the Bar, and the Return made by him for the said County being read, he
was

was heard, and afterwards produced several Witnesses, who were examin'd on his Behalf, and also several Witnesses were examin'd against him. The said *William Baresby* and the Witnesses being withdrawn, it was resolv'd, ' That *William Baresby*, (Under-Sheriff for the County of ' *Leicester*) having neglected to return two Knights of ' the Shire to serve in Parliament for the said County by ' the Seventeenth Day of *March*, (being the Day of the ' meeting this present Parliament) is guilty of a great ' Breach of the Privilege of this House: " And order'd, that the said *William Baresby* be, for the said Offence, committed to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending the House. The next Day, the Report touching the Election for the Borough of *New Windsor*, was put off 'till the 14th, when Mr. *Hampden* reported accordingly the Resolutions of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, which were agreed to as follows, viz. ' That *Christopher Wren*, Esq; and *Robert Gayer*, Esq; were not duly ' elected Burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for ' the Borough of *New Windsor* in the County of *Berks*: ' That *Sir Henry Ashurst*, Birt. and *Samuel Travers*, Esq; ' were duly elected Burgesses to serve in this present Parliament for the said Borough." And order'd, that the Clerk of the Crown should amend the Return for the Borough of *New Windsor*. The same Day, Mr. Secretary *Stanhope* presented to the House Memorials and Papers of the Proceedings relating to the Demolition of *Dunkirk*; and an Account of the Proceedings at the Courts of the South Sea Company, relating to the *Assiento* and South Sea Trade; which were referr'd to the Committee of Secrecy. Then it was order'd, 1st. That the said Committee of Secrecy have leave to sit during the Adjournment of the House. 2dly, That all Committees be reviv'd. 3dly, That the House be call'd over that Day Fortnight. And 4thly, That such Members as should not then attend, be sent for in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms. After which, the House adjourn'd till Monday the 25th, by reason of the *Easter Holidays*.

On the 25th of *April*, the Commons being met again, it was resolv'd to address his Majesty, That an Account of the Moneys issu'd for the Service of the Navy, out of the Funds granted by Parliament for the Service of the Year 1714, and to what Uses apply'd, distinguish'd under the several Heads thereof; as also, an Account what South-Sea Stock had at any Time between *Christmas* 1713, and *Christmas* 1714, been in the Hands of the Treasurer of the Navy,

Navy, and how that Stock had been dispos'd of, might be laid before the House. Then Mr. *Pulteney*, Secretary at War, presented to the House a List of the Regimental Officers in Half-Pay, for the Year 1715; and also a List of the Half-Pay Officers, dead, or provided for within the Year 1714. After which it was order'd, That the Grand Committee on the Land-Tax Bill, have Power to receive two Clauses, viz. One of Credit, the other for transferring to the said Bill the Deficiency of the Loans and Interest upon the Act of the last Parliament for granting an Aid to her Majesty to be rais'd by a Land-Tax in Great Britain for the Service of the Year 1714. And then, in a Committee of the whole House, a farther Progress was made in that Bill.

April 26, Mr. *Lowndes* presented to the House Accounts of the Deficiencies of the respective Funds of the Classes Lotteries in the Years 1711, and 1712, at Michaelmas 1714. And then the Order of the Day being read, for hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Shaftesbury* in the County of *Dorset*, the Counsel were call'd in, and the Petition complaining of the said Election, was read. The Petitioners Council having insisted upon Partialities, and indirect Practices, of the Mayor, examin'd several Witnesses relating thereunto, and afterwards examin'd several Witnesses, in order to disqualify several of the Voters for the sitting Members; and then the Council being directed to withdraw, the farther Hearing of the Merits of the said Election was put off till the 28th.

April 27, Upon a Petition of *Thomas Crosby*, Under-Sheriff of the County of *Cumberland*, in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, for neglecting to return the Writ for electing the Members of the said County, expressing his Sorrow for the Censure so justly incurr'd; begging Pardon for his Fault, and praying to be releas'd from his Confinement: It was order'd that the said *Thomas Crosby* be brought to the Bar of the House, on the 29th, in order to his being discharg'd out of Custody: Which was done accordingly, after he had receiv'd a Reprimand from Mr. Speaker, and paid his Fees.

April 28, The Commons proceeded to the further hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Shaftesbury*; and then adjourn'd the same to the last Day of this Month, when it was further adjourn'd. On the 28th also the Call of the House was put off to that Day fortnight; and the next Day, in a grand Committee, the Commons went through the Land-Tax Bill, and made several Amendments thereunto,

thereunto, the Report of which, was put off to the 1d of May.

On the last Day of April, the Commons resolv'd to present three Addresses to his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct, 1st, The Commissioners of the Navy to lay before the House, ' An Account of the Number of ' Men borne for the Years 1711, 1712, 1713, and 1714, ' and what the Wages of those Men, after the Rate of One ' Pound Ten Shillings per Man per Mensen, for those Years, ' amount to; also, the Charge of Wear and Tear for the ' aforesaid Number of Men, according to the Proportion ' of One Pound Seven Shillings per Man per Mensen; and ' likewise an Account of the Charge of the Ordinary of ' the Navy upon the several Heads thereof for the said ' four Years, and how much has been supply'd to the ' Navy in Money or Credit upon the aforesaid Heads of ' Wear and Tear, and Ordinary.

' 2dly, To direct the proper Officers to lay before the ' House an Account of the Charge of the Victualling for ' the said Number of Men, and the Charge of Ordnance ' for Sea-Service, for the Years 1711, 1712, 1713, and ' 1714.

' And, 3dly, An Account of the annual Charge of the ' four Men of War appointed for the Service of the South- ' Sea Company."

The same Day, the Serjeant at Arms being call'd upon, to give an Account what Persons were order'd to be taken into his Custody the last Parliament, and had absconded, so as they could not be taken, or having surrender'd themselves, or been in Custody, had not paid their just Fees; he acquainted the House, That Mr. William Waller, who was, the first Session of the last Parliament, order'd to be taken into Custody for a Breach of Privilege by him committed against Edward Vaughan, Esq; a Member of this House, did then abscond, and could not be taken; and that the said William Waller was, the last Session of Parliament, again order'd to be taken into Custody, but then also absconded, and could not be taken. The standing Order of the House of the 10th of April, in the sixth Year of her late Majesty's Reign, was thereupon read, and order'd, that the said Mr. William Waller be taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House.

The House proceeded in the further hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of Shaftesbury in the County of Dorset, and the Counsel were called in: And the Counsel for the sitting Members examin'd several

Witnesses,

Witnesses, in order to justify several of the Voters for the sitting Members, which the Petitioners Counsel had produced Evidence against; and also to justify the Refusal (by the Mayor) of such Persons as the sitting Members Counsel had insisted upon were refused, altho' qualify'd to vote. And the sitting Members Counsel also examin'd several Witnesses, in relation to Bribery by the Petitioners or their Agents. Then the Counsel for the sitting Members insisted, that the Petitioners were not qualify'd to be elected according to the Act entitled, *An Act for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the further qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons.* And they first insisted, that Mr. Andrewes, one of the Petitioners, was not qualify'd according to the said Act. And the Counsel for the Petitioners admitted, that, according to the Particulars in the Qualification, deliver'd in to the Clerk of the House by the said Mr. Andrewes, (considering an Incumbrance thereupon) he is not so qualify'd, altho' he has much greater Estate elsewhere. After which, the sitting Members Counsel insisted also, That Mr. Benson, the other Petitioner, was not qualify'd according to the said Act; and they produced a Copy of the Certificate, of the Oath he had made at the Time of the Election, as it was return'd by the Mayor into the Court of Chancery. After which, the Particular of the said Mr. Benson's Qualification, deliver'd in to the Clerk of the House, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 23d of March last, was read. And then the said Certificate of the Mayor, as filed in the Court of Chancery was read; and the Act of the Ninth Year of her late Majesty's Reign, entitled, *An Act for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the further qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons,* was read: Also, the sitting Members Demand, left with the Clerk of the House, for the Petitioners to give in their Qualifications (pursuant to the Resolution of the House upon the said Act) was read. And afterwards the Counsel on both Sides were heard, whether the sitting Members Counsel should proceed on the said Particular deliver'd in to the Clerk, or on the said Certificate of the Mayor: And then the Counsel being withdrawn, it was resolv'd,

That William Benson, Esq; one of the Petitioners, complaining of an undue Election for the Borough of Shaftesbury in the County of Dorset, having, at the Demand of the sitting Members, deliver'd in a Particular of Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, in Order to make out his Qualification to be elected for the said Borough,

Borough, pursuant to the Order of the House the 23d of *March* last; the Counsel for the sitting Members (if they have any Objections to the said *William Benson's* Qualification) be directed to make their Objections to the said Particular, deliver'd in pursuance to the said Order of the House, so far only as the same relates to the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments in the Parish of *Bromley* in the County of *Middlesex*; being the only Qualification the said *William Benson* gave in upon Oath at the said Election, as appears by the Certificate of the Mayor of the said Borough." Then the Counsel were call'd in again, and Mr. Speaker acquainted them with the said Resolution. After which, the Counsel were directed to withdraw; and it was order'd, That the further Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Shaftesbury* be adjourn'd to Tuesday the 3d of *May*.

On the 11th of *April*, the House of Lords being met, according to their last Adjournment, the Earl of *Oxford*, went to the Parliament, qualify'd himself, and took his Seat in the House; as did also the Lord *Delaware*, and the Lord *Willoughby* of *Parham*; and then the House was further adjourn'd (by reason of the *Easter* Holidays) 'till the 26th of *April*. Being then met again, there came before their Lordships a very remarkable Case, between Sir *Geo. Downing*, Bart. and Mrs. *Mary Forester*, Maid of Honour to the late Queen, and to her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales*, who, it seems, were marry'd in their Nonage, about 13 Years since, when that Gentleman was about 15, and the Lady about 12: Upon his Return from Travel, Sir *George* shew'd no Inclination to his Bride, who was at last prevail'd upon by her Relations to put up a Petition to the Lords, setting forth a Personal Dislike between her and Sir *Geo. Downing*, (which had prevented Cohabitation) and their Desire of being separated, and at Liberty to marry again: Several of the Peers, particularly the Bishops, gave their Judgment against a Divorce; but nothing more was done in that Matter, than appointing it another Hearing on the 3d of *May*.

On the 2d of *May*, Mr. Secretary *Stanhope* presented to the House of Commons several Papers; as did also Mr. *Aislaby*, several Accounts that had been call'd for by Addresses to his Majesty.

May 3. Upon a Motion made by Mr. *Hampden*, the Statute of the 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of K. *William* and Q. *Mary*, entitled, *An Act that the solemn Affirmation and*

and Declaration of the People call'd Quakers, shall be accepted instead of an Oath in the usual Form, and also the Statute of the 13th and 14th of King William and Queen Mary, for continuing the same; those two Statutes were read accordingly; after which, a Bill was order'd to be brought in, to continue the said Act of the 7th and 8th Years of King William and Queen Mary. Then upon another Motion made by Sir David Dalrymple, for reading the Act of the 10th Year of her late Majesty's Reign, entitled, *An Act for repealing Part of an Act pass'd in the Parliament of Scotland, entitled, An Act for discharging the Yule Vacance,* the same was read accordingly; and order'd, that a Bill be brought in for shortening the Time of the Yule Vacance, in that Part of Great Britain call'd Scotland. After this, it was order'd Nemine Contradicente, That leave be given to bring in a Bill for the more effectual preventing the Abuses of Sheriffs and other returning Officers, in not returning the Writs of Summons in due Time, and for preventing Bribery and Corruption in the Elections of Members to serve in Parliament. Then the House proceeded to the further Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of Shaftesbury; and having heard Counsel, and examin'd Witnesses, upon the several Questions that were put, it was resolv'd, That Edward Nicholas, Esq; and Samuel Russ, Esq; sitting Members, and Henry Andrewes, Esq; one of the two Petitioners, were not duly elected, and that William Benson, Esq; the other Petitioner, was duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the said Borough of Shaftesbury in the County of Dorset.

May 4, Upon the Report made by Mr. Heysham, from the Committee to whom the Petition of the Buyers and Dealers in mixed or medley Broadcloths, was refer'd, a Bill was order'd to be brought in for making the Act of the 10th Year of her late Majesty's Reign, entitled, *An Act for regulating, improving, and encouraging of the Woollen Manufacture of mixed or medley Broad-Cloth, &c. more effectual for the Benefit of Trade in general.*

May 5, Upon the Reading of a Petition of the Officers of Lieutenant-General George Hamilton's late Regiment of Foot (Subjects of Great Britain) broke in the Service of the States-General of the United Provinces; praying, That (in Regard of the Petitioners long and faithful Services) their Case may be consider'd, and that Provision may be made for their Relief: Mr. Pulteney (Secretary at War) acquainted the House, That Application had been made to his Majesty, and that his Majesty had commanded

manded him to signify his Consent to the Petitioners Relief in such Manner as the House should think fit: It was resolv'd, That an Address be presented to his Majesty, That he would be pleased to direct, that a List of the Officers of Lieutenant-General *George Hamilton's* late Regiment of Foot be laid before this House. After this, upon another Petition of the Protestant Officers of the Baron *de Borle's* (Son to the Baron *de Walef*) late Regiment of Dragoons, praying, That (in Regard of their long and faithful Services) a Provision be made for Half-Pay for them: Mr. *Pulteney* acquainted the House, That his Majesty had been likewise apply'd to on Behalf of those Officers; and had commanded him to acquaint this House, that his Majesty conceived that the said Officers might be added to the List of Officers in Half-Pay, if the House thought fit: Whereupon it was resolv'd, that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would be pleased to direct, that a List of the Protestant Officers of the Baron *de Borle's* late Regiment of Dragoons be laid before this House. Then it was order'd, that leave be given to bring in a Bill for continuing the Imprisonment of *Robert Blackburne*, and others, for their horrid Conspiracy to assassinate the Person of his late Sacred Majesty *K. William the Third*; and that Mr. Attorney-General, and Mr. Solicitor-General do prepare and bring in the same. The House taking into Consideration, that Brass Money was of late grown very scarce, which was a great Hindrance to the small Retail Trade, it was resolv'd to address his Majesty, 'That he would be pleased to direct the Lords of the Treasury to lay before this House, an Account of what Proposals had been made to them, in Relation to the Coinage of Farthings and Half-Pence, and what had been done thereupon.' Then the House proceeded to the Hearing of the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Bridport* in the County of *Dorset*, and adjourn'd it to the 5th; when, after a further Hearing, the same was adjourn'd to the 10th of this Month.

May 6, The engrossed Bill for granting an Aid to his Majesty, to be raised by a Land-Tax in Great Britain for the Service of the Year 1715, was read the third Time, pass'd, and sent up to the Lords. The House having, upon the hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Shafton*, alias *Shaftesbury* in the County of *Dorset*, adjudg'd only one Burgess to be duly elected, Mr. Speaker was order'd to issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown, to make out a new Writ for electing another Burgess for the said Borough.

May

May 7, The Commons resolv'd to present seven several Addresses to his Majesty, That he would be pleas'd to direct the proper Officers to lay before them, 1st, An Account of the clear Produce of the Branches of the Revenue which were settled for the Service of the Household and Family, and other Expences of his late Majesty King William, and of her late Majesty Queen Anne, and of his present Majesty, respectively, from Christmas 1699, to Lady-Day last, and how any of the said Branches have been abridg'd, alter'd, taken away, or encumber'd, by any Act or Acts of Parliament since that Time. 2^{dly}, An Account of all the Civil List Expences for one Year, before her late Majesty's Death. 3^{dly}, The several Establishments of the Household and Family, made during the Reigns of King Charles the Second, King James the Second, King William, and Queen Anne. 4^{thly}, An Account of what Pensions have been granted, and also what Warrants for beneficial Grants have been directed to the Lords of the Treasury, since his Majesty's Accession to the Throne. 5^{thly}, An Account of what Pensions were granted either in Great Britain or Ireland, during the Reign of her late Majesty. 6^{thly}, A State of her late Majesty's Revenue at the Time of her Death, distinguishing the Money that was at that Time in the Exchequer, applicable to the Uses of the Civil Government, what paid into the Exchequer since, on that Account, and how it has been apply'd; what remains in Money or other Effects, to discharge the Debts of her Majesty's Civil Government, and what those Debts are. And 7^{thly}, An Account of the Distribution of the Five Hundred Thousand Pounds granted by Parliament for the Payment of her late Majesty's Debts.

After this, upon a Motion that the first Section of the Act of the Tenth and Eleventh Years of the Reign of the late King William, entitled, *An Act for preventing irregular Proceedings of Sheriffs and other Officers, in making Returns of Members chosen to serve in Parliament*, might be read; the same was read accordingly; and order'd, That it be an Instruction to the Gentlemen who were to prepare and bring in a Bill for the more effectual preventing the Abuses of Sheriffs and other returning Officers, in not returning the Writs of Summons in due Time; and for preventing Bribery and Corruption in the Elections of Members to serve in Parliament, That they do bring in a Clause or Clauses to repeal so much of the said Act as relates to the Sheriffs and other Returning Officers, not making Returns of the Writs of Summons to Parliament in due Time.

On the 9th of *May*, the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, upon the Supply, having consider'd several Accounts that were order'd to be laid before them, resolv'd to grant the several Sums, viz.

First, 35,574*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* for Half-Pay to the Sea-Officers, for the Year 1715.

Secondly, 197,896*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* for the Ordinary of the Navy, for the Year 1715.

Thirdly, 237,277*l.* for the extraordinary Repairs of the Navy, rebuilding of Ships, and other extraordinary Works; as also compleating the Furniture and Stores of the Ships in Repair, and to be repair'd in the Year 1715.

And *Fourthly*, 90,797*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* for the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, for the Year 1715.

Which Resolutions were the next Day reported, and agreed to by the House.

The same Day, Mr. Lowndes laid before the Commons an Account of the clear Produce of the Branches of the Revenue settled for the Service of the Household and Family, and other Expences of the late King William, Queen Anne, and his present Majesty, from Christmas 1699, to to Lady-Day 1715; a Paper shewing how the Civil List Branches have been abridg'd; List of Salaries, Annuities, and Pensions in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other Papers; which were order'd to lie upon the Table. Then the House proceeded to the further Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of Bridport in the County of Dorset; and resolv'd, That John Strangways, Esq; sitting Member was not, and on the contrary, That Peter Walter, Esq; was duly elected a Burgess to serve in this Parliament for the said Borough.

On the 11th of *May*, several Papers from the Treasurer of the Chamber, were laid before the Commons: And the King being come to the House of Peers, with the usual State and Solemnity, and the Commons sent for up, and attending, his Majesty gave the Royal Assent to an Act for granting an Aid to his Majesty, to be raised, by a Land-Tax in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year 1715, and to two Private Acts, to empower the Barons of the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, to grant a Commission to some of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer in England, to administer the usual Oaths to some Persons therein mention'd. The Commons being return'd to their House, consider'd further, in a Grand Committee, of Ways and Means to raise the Supply, and resolv'd, 'That the Duties on Malt, Mum Cider, &c. be further continu'd, from the 23th of June 1715,

to the 24th of June 1716." After which, they also consider'd further of the Supply, in a Grand Committee.

May 12, The Resolution for the Malt-Tax, was reported, and agreed, and a Bill was order'd to be brought in thereupon.

The same Day, the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, went through the Bill for continuing the Imprisonment of Robert Blackburne, and others, for the horrid Conspiracy to assassinate the Person of his late Sacred Majesty King William the Third; and some Members having spoke in their Favour, a Petition was afterwards offer'd to the House, with a Paper entitled,

The most sad and deplorable CASE of Robert Blackburne, John Bernardi, Robert Cassils, Robert Meldrum, and James Chambers.

Humbly presented to the Parliament of Great Britain.

IN March and April 1696, we were committed to Newgate. The Crime mention'd in the Warrants was for High-Treason, in conspiring the Murder and Assassination of his late Majesty King William; but without any Proof, not so much as the Oath of one single Witness against any of us: Nor is it otherwise specify'd in the Warrants.

Upon our Commitment, no Person but our Gaoler and his Servants were permitted to speak with us: We were deny'd the Use of Pen, Ink, and Paper, debarr'd of all Comforts and Conveniencies, and under great Hardships as to the very Necessaries of Life; our Confinement being so strict, that even our Food and Linnen were search'd, to prevent the least Communication.

This rigorous Treatment we suffer'd for the Space of two Years, without the least Intermission or Relaxation, save that in September 1696, Blackburne was bail'd at the Old Baily; and in Michaelmas Term following, Chambers was brought up by Habeas Corpus to the Court of King's-Bench at Westminster, but remanded, because one of his Bail could not swear to the Value the Court requir'd. And Bernardi, Cassils, Meldrum, and Chambers, were once carry'd to the Sessions-House in the Old-Baily, (their Prayers being enter'd there by some Friends) but immediately sent back to their former close Confinement. And in January next following, Blackburne was by a Warrant from the Secretary of State recommitted to Newgate.

In the 7th and 8th of King William, and since, several Acts of Parliament have been made for continuing our

Imprisonment from Time to Time, but all of them expired at the Demise of her late Majesty Queen Anne; and in the last of these Acts, viz. *Primo Anne Regina*, it is expressed, That we should be then set at large, unless some farther Provision were made for the Continuance of our Imprisonment.

In last *Michaelmas* Term, we (having enter'd our Prayer to be try'd pursuant to the Directions of the *Habeas Corpus* Act) were brought up the last Day of the Term by *Habeas Corpus*, and had our Bail in Readiness, according to the Directions of the Court, but were remanded to Prison. When we were brought up, the Court declared to us, That they had a discretionary Power to bail or discharge us, but would not do it till after another Session of Parliament, although there then had been one Session since the Demise of her late Majesty, in which no Provision was thought fit to be made for continuing us in Prison; but several other Laws were continu'd, there being Provision then made for all Laws that were expiring or lately expired.

When we entred our Prayers at the *Old Baily*, it was objected to us, that we could have no Benefit of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, because we had not claim'd it the first Session after our Commitment: But how was it possible for Persons under such unhappy Circumstances, and so strict Confinement? If the restraining us from Pen, Ink, and Paper, and all our Friends, was illegal; surely no Advantage of that ought to have been taken against us. If legal, then it is a justification for our not entering our Prayer in Time: For, *Lex non cogit ad impossibilia*. And if such Confinement be good in Law, there is an End of the *Habeas Corpus* Act: For in Case the Committing Power does but direct the Prisoner to be kept without Pen, Ink, and Paper, and Access of Friends; he must be under an utter Incapacity of entering his Prayer in Time; and consequently, the whole Force of that Law, which is the great Barrier of the Liberties of *English* Subjects, may be entirely eluded.

We had no Opportunity of being heard against the several Acts that have been made against us; being without Liberty, Friends, Money, or Counsel. We scarcely knew that such a Bill was brought in, before it was pass'd; and now we are inform'd, that there is a new Bill against us in Parliament, entitled, *An Act for continuing the Imprisonment of Robert Blackburne, and others, for the horrid Conspiracy*

spiracy to assassinate the Person of his late Sacred Majesty, King William the Third.

Of this Charge, we, and each of us, do solemnly declare our selves to be Not Guilty, and only desire a fair and legal Opportunity to make our Innocence appear. We have already undergone a Confinement worse than Death; and the not clearing our Innocence, is worse than our Confinement; and all this, without any legal Evidence given, or so much as offer'd to be produced against us, either in Parliament, or elsewhere; nothing more than a bare groundless Presumption of Guilt: This surely is without all Precedent; God Grant it may never hereafter be made one! Tho' now 'tis our Case alone, yet the Liberties of all *Englishmen* are highly concern'd in it.

The former Acts that were made against us, were temporary, and of a short Duration, made upon a Supposition that some Proof would appear, that could have convicted us. But since none hath hitherto been found, since those Acts were limited to a determin'd Time, the Intention of them could not be, to make our Imprisonment perpetual. Even those very Acts do now seem to give us a Right of being restor'd to Liberty. And in this Bill, which is now depending against us, there is, as we are inform'd, a Clause which says, *That we should now be discharged, unless farther Provision be made for our Confinement.*

Presumptions of Law are always in Favour of Innocence. The Maxim of the Common Law is, *Quisquis esse innocens presumitur, donec in contrarium probetur.* We, as Subjects of *England*, do humbly pray the Benefit of *English* Laws. We pray the Benefit of *Magna Charta*, wherein it is enacted, *Nullus liber homo capiarur, vel imprisonetur, nec super eum ibimus, nec super eum mittemus, nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum, vel per legem terræ. Nulli vendemus, nulli negabimus, aut differemus iustitiam vel rectum.* We humbly pray the Benefit of the *Habeas Corpus* Act, the Common Law of *England*, the Law of God, and the Law of Nature, and the late most gracious Declaration of his present Majesty, whereby he promises inviolably to defend and maintain the Rights, Liberties, and Properties of all his Subjects.

Robert Blackburat,
Robert Cassils,
John Bernardi,
Robert Meldrum,
J. Chambers.

Deut. i. 17. Ye shall not respect Persons in Judgment, but you shall hear the Small, as well as the Great.

John vii. 50, 51. Nicodemus saith unto them, — Doth our Law judge any Man, before it hear him?

A Motion being made that the said Petition be brought up, several Members spoke in Behalf of the Petitioners; but the Majority of the House were against them, and the Question being put, was carry'd in the Negative. The same Day, the Commons resolv'd to address the King, that he would please to direct the proper Officers to lay before the House, 1st, The Establishment of the Household and Family for his Royal Highness Prince Henry, eldest Son of King *James the First*, or any subsequent Establishment of the Household and Family for any Prince of Wales: 2^{dly}, An Account of the Incomes and Revenues of the late King *James* when Duke of York. Then the Call of the House was adjourn'd to that Day Fortnight.

After this, the *Bill* in Favour of the People call'd *Quakers* was read the second Time, and committed: Which done, there was presented to the House the following Petition, and Case of the *Quakers*, with Respect to many of their Friends in *South-Britain*, and their Friends in general in *North-Britain*, who conscientiously scruple the taking of the present Affirmation.

OUR late gracious Sovereign King *William*, and the Parliament, being generously dispos'd in Favour of Liberty of Conscience, were pleas'd, in the Year 1696, to grant us a Solemn Affirmation instead of an Oath, for which we were very thankful to God and the Government; whereby many of us have been not only deliver'd and defended from Imprisonments, vexatious Suits, Loss of Goods and Estates; but also have been enabled to serve our Country, and promote the Trade and Interest thereof; although, in the Course of our Solicitation for Relief, it happen'd, that in the said Parliament, the Affirmation was form'd in Words different from what we desir'd; and many of our Friends scrupling to attest the sacred Name of God therein, (notwithstanding they sincerely acknowledge his Omnipresence, and all other his Divine Attributes) have, by Means thereof been depriv'd of its intended Benefit, and have been, and still will be (if not reliev'd) liable to great Sufferings and Discouragements in their lawful Callings, and advantageous Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Wherefore

Wherefore we, the People call'd *Quakers*, being very sensible of the good Disposition of our present gracious King and the Parliament, towards Liberty of Conscience; and we having a tender Regard to our said Friends, and being desirous that they may be render'd useful (when wanted) to their Neighbours, as Witnesses; as also, that they may be the better qualify'd to contribute towards the Support of the present happy Establishment, as well as the Trade of their Country; do humbly intreat the honourable House of Commons, to make such an Alteration in the present Bill before the House, as that our Affirmation may be in the following Terms, *viz. I A. B. do sincerely Declare and Affirm*; which, on Enquiry, we find will be generally easy to our Friends, and, with Submission, conceive will very well answer the Intent of Law and Justice, since the Penalties here, in Case of Falshood, will carry the same legal Security as they do in Perjury. An Indulgence of the Nature of what we here desire, hath been granted to the *Menists* by the States of *Holland*, which they have enjoy'd more than a Hundred Years.

A Motion being made, and the Question put, That this Petition be referr'd to the Consideration of the Committee to whom the Bill beforemention'd was committed, it pass'd in the Negative.

On the 13th of May, Mr. Lowndes presented to the House an Abstract of the Produce of the Revenue of his Royal Highness James Duke of York, for the Year 1678: But Mr. Secretary Stanhope reported, that upon their Address of the Day before, his Majesty had given Directions to the several Officers to enquire after the Establishment for his Royal Highness Prince Henry, eldest Son of King James the First, or any subsequent Establishment for any Prince of Wales; but that none other could be found but an old Book, entitled, *Anno Nono Regis Jacobi, A Book of Diet, Wages, &c. of the Prince's House*: Which was order'd to lie on the Table. Then the House resolv'd itself into a Grand Committee, to consider further of the Supply; and after some Time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resum'd the Chair, and Mr. Farrer reported from the said Committee, that they found it necessary, that the several Accounts, and other Papers, relating to the Matter of the Civil List, which had been presented to the House, should be referr'd to the said Committee; which was order'd accordingly; and then the House resolv'd itself again into the said Committee. After the Reading of some of the Papers that

that lay before them, the Courtiers offer'd the following Question, viz. That it appears to this Committee, that the Sum of 700,000*l. per Annum* was settled upon his late Majesty King *William*, during his Life, for the Support of his Majesty's Household, and other his necessary Occasions; and at the Time of his Majesty's Demise, (after the Deduction of 3700*l. a Week*, that was apply'd to publick Uses) was the Produce of the Civil List Revenues that were continu'd and settled upon her late Majesty Queen *Anne*, during her Life. Which Question occasion'd a warm and long Debate. They who propos'd it had two Things principally in their View; first, to vindicate the present Ministry from the Aspersions cast upon them, and industriously spread about, by the Emisaries of the late Managers, that the Whigs design'd to give the King a larger Revenue than his Majesty's Predecessors had enjoy'd; and, in the second Place, to make good the Branches of the Revenue assign'd for the Support of the Civil List, which had been alienated, or abridg'd, so that the whole neat Produce might amount to the Sum of 700,000*l. per Annum*.

The leading Men among the Tories, being sensible of the first, and pretending, at least, to be ignorant of the Consequence of this preliminary Question, insisted a long while, ' That it was ensnaring: That what had been done by former Parliaments ought not to be a standing Rule for the subsequent: That supposing the Parliament had given King *William* a Revenue of 700,000*l. per Annum* for the Civil List, they ought to consider, that he was to pay out of it 50,000*l. per Annum* to the late Queen, then Princess of Denmark; 15 or 20000*l. per Annum* for the late Duke of Gloucester; and 40,000*l. for the Dowry* of the late King *James's* Queen: That after the late Queen's Accession to the Throne, the Parliament taking Notice that the Produce of the Civil List Revenues, exceeded what they had been given for, the Sum of 3700*l. per Week*, (that is 192400*l. per Annum*) was taken out of them, and apply'd to other Uses; notwithstanding which Deduction, the late Queen had honourably maintain'd her Family, and supported the Dignity of the Crown: However, if the present Revenues of the Civil List were not sufficient, they were ready to consent to an Addition." The Courtiers answer'd, ' That the Question before them was founded upon Facts, which, if deny'd, they were ready to prove by the Records of the House." But Sir William Wyndham still

still urging that the Question was ensnaring, Mr. Secretary *Stanhope* answer'd, ' That he would be very plain with them, and own, that as 'twas notorious, that great Endeavours had been used to alienate the Affection of the People from the King and his Government by false Suggestions, that they design'd to plunge the Nation into extraordinary Expences, they thought it highly necessary to clear his Majesty and his Ministers from that malicious Aspersions." To this the Lord *Guernsey* reply'd, ' That the Disaffection of the People, if any, did not proceed from his Majesty, but from the Hardships his Ministers put on the Tory Party." To which it was smartly return'd, ' That as soon as 'twould be made known to the World, how the late Ministry had used not only the Whigs, but the whole Nation, nothing that could be done against them, would then be thought a Hardship; but, however, that neither that noble Member, nor any of his Family, had Reason to complain of Hardships." After some other Speeches, which prolong'd the Debate from Two till about Five in the Afternoon, the Tories endeavour'd to drop the Question, by moving that the Speaker resume the Chair; but the Question being put upon this Question, the same was carry'd in the Negative by a Majority of 244 Voices against 148: After which, the first Question was put, and carry'd in the Affirmative by about the same Majority. Then the victorious Party mov'd, That to enable his Majesty to support the Dignity of the Crown, and to make an honourable Provision for the Royal Family, there be granted to his Majesty, during his Life, (which God long preserve) an additional Revenue, which, together with the near Produce of the Civil List Branches, may make up the clear yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds for the Service of his Majesty's Household and Family, and for other his necessary Expences and Occasions." The Question being put upon this Motion, the same occasion'd another great Debate. Sir *Thomas Hammer*, Mr. *Bromley*, Sir *William Wyndham*, Mr. *Cesar*, Mr. *Hungerford*, and some other leading Members among the Tories, who, on this Occasion, were strengthen'd and back'd by some eminent Whigs, did not at first directly oppose the Question, but insinuated, ' That before they came to that Resolution, it should be proper that a Particular of the King's Expences should be laid before the House." Mr. *Walpole*, Mr. *Stanhope*, Mr. *Lechmere*, and some other Courtiers, who, on this Occasion, were join'd by some of the opposi-

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site Party, having exploded that Proposal as altogether inconsistent with the King's Honour, to have all the private Expences of his Family and Household look'd into, as if he had need of a Guardian. The Tories then mov'd, that the Sum of 600,000*l. per Annum* be given to his Majesty, and 100,000*l. per Annum* settled on the Prince of Wales. The Courtiers perceiving that the Proposal of giving the Prince of Wales a separate Revenue, was only a Design to divide the Royal Family, by lessening the Dependence of the next Heir Apparent on his Majesty, oppos'd it with great Warmth; and the Question being put upon that Motion, the same was carry'd in the Negative by a great Majority. The Tories having lost these two Points, some of that Party more openly oppos'd the main Question, among the rest, Sir William Wyndham said, "He had the Honour to serve her Majesty, and had the Opportunity to look both into her Revenue and Expences; and he could assure the House, that about 500,000*l. per Annum*, were sufficient for the Support of her Family and Civil List; tho' she reserv'd about 50,000*l. a Year* for the late King James's Consort." The Courtiers were glad of this last Confession; and Mr. Secretary Stanhope desir'd the Committee to take Notice of what that Gentleman had advanc'd, because it would serve to confirm some Matters, which the Committee of Secrecy had found in the Papers that were laid before them. A Whig Member, who, at this Time, spoke on the Tory Side, made some Reflections on the present unthrifty Administration of his Majesty's Revenue; and, in particular, took Notice of the Salaries of the Judges being advanc'd; *Not, said he, for Services done, but expected.* Upon the whole Matter, the Question being put upon the Motion before mention'd, (about Seven a-Clock in the Evening) the same was carry'd in the Affirmative without dividing. What's most remarkable in this Day's Debate, is the Division that appear'd among the Whigs, which was by many ascrib'd to the Counsels of the late Earl of Halifax. Be that as it will, Mr. Speaker having resum'd the Chair, the Report of the two Resolutions before-mention'd was put off till the 16th of May, when the same were read, and agreed to by the House.

On the 14th, the Commons proceeded to the hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Henriord*, in the County of that Name; which, after some Time spent therein, was adjourn'd to the Tuesday, and then again to the Thursday following. On Monday the engross'd Bill for the better regulating the Forces, &c. was read

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the third Time, pass'd, and sent up to the Lords: And then Sir David Dalrimple presented to the House, a Bill for shortening the Time of the Yule Vacance in Scotland, which was receiv'd.

May 17. A Bill was order'd to be brought in, for making Inclosures of some Part of the common Grounds in that Part of Great Britain call'd England, for endowing poor Rectories, Vicaridges, Curacies, and Chapeltries, for the better Support of their Ministers. After this, a Petition of William Baresby, Gent, was read, setting forth, That he having incur'd the Displeasure of this House, for having neglected to return two Knights of the Shire to serve in Parliament for the County of Leicester, was committed to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms for such Offence the 11th of April last; and that he was heartily sorry for such his great Offence, and begg'd Pardon for the same: Upon which it was order'd, that the said William Baresby be brought to the Bar of this House the next Morning, in order to his being discharg'd out of Custody; but the same was put off till the 19th, when having receiv'd a Reprimand from Mr. Speaker, he was discharg'd out of Custody, paying his Fees.

May 18. The Commons resolv'd themselves into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the several Lists and Accounts of Annuities, Pensions, and Bounties granted by her late Majesty, or his present Majesty; upon which there arose a warm Debate. The leading Men among the Tories, supported again by a great many Whigs, exclaim'd against the Pensions given by the Crown to several Persons of Quality, (some of whom they nam'd) who had no Occasion for them; and a Motion was made, that an Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to retrench all unnecessary Pensions, and grant no more any such for the future. Hereupon Mr. Robert Walpole shew'd, 'That they ought not to stint the King's Beneficence, nor debar his Majesty from the Exercise of the most glorious Branch of his Royal Prerogative, which is to bestow his Favours on such as distinguish themselves in his Service.' He was seconded by Mr. Hampden, who, on the other Hand, observ'd, that all the Pensions about which so much Noise was made, did not amount to above 25000*l.* a year; and to wave the Motion made by the Tories, he mov'd, that the Chairman should leave the Chair; which, being put to the Vote, pass'd in the Affirmative, by 191 Voices against 188; so that the Court Party carry'd it by three Voices only. The same Day,

Day, the Commons resolv'd to address his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct the proper Officers to lay before the House, an Account of the gross and neat Produce of the Duty upon Malt in that Part of *Great Britain* call'd *Scotland*; and on the 19th, they also resolv'd to address his Majesty, 1st, for an Account of all Ships that have pass'd into any Parts beyond the Seas from any Ports of *England*, from *Christmas 1709* to *Christmas 1714*, distinguishing the Number of Ships departed each Year respectively. 2dly, for an Account of the Number of Seamen employ'd in any *English Merchant Ships* from *Christmas 1709* to *Christmas 1714*, distinguishing each Year respectively.

On the 20th of *May*, the third Reading of the engross'd Bill, for continuing the Imprisonment of the Conspirators against the Life of the late King *William III.* was put off till the 24th; and, in the mean Time, the Commons resolv'd, that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct the proper Officer to lay before this House, an Account at what Time, and by what Warrant ——— *Counter* was releas'd, who was continu'd in Prison during her late Majesty's Pleasure, by an Act of the first Year of her said Majesty's Reign, entitled, *An Act for the continuing the Imprisonment of* ——— *Counter*, and others, for the horrid Conspiracy to assassinate the Person of his late Sacred Majesty King *William the Third.* The same Day, Mr. *Hampden* reported from the Committee of Elections, the Resolutions of the said Committee, touching the Election for the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*, which were read as follows, viz.

1. Resolv'd, That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Right of Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*, is in such Freemen only as do not receive Alms, and are entitled to Freedom by Birth, Marriage, or Servitude.

2. That such Persons who derive their Right to Freedom from Honorary Freemen of the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*, have not a Right to vote in the Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the said Borough.

3. That Persons claiming their Freedom by Purchase, and exercising Trades within the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*, have not a Right to vote in the Election

Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the said Borough.

4. That *John Comyns*, Serjeant at Law, having, at the late Election of Members to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*, wilfully refus'd to take the Oath of Qualification, as is directed by an Act of Parliament of the ninth Year of the late Queen, (entitled, *An Act for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the farther qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons*) though duly requir'd so to do; and not having, at any Time before the meeting of this Parliament taken the said Oath, his Election is thereby void.

5. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that *Thomas Bramston*, Esq; is duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the Borough of *Malden* in the County of *Essex*.

6. That *Samuel Tiffnel*, Esq; is duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the said Borough of *Malden*.

The said Resolutions being severally read a second Time, and the Question being severally put upon the three first, that the House do agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions, it pass'd in the Negative; but the rest of the Resolutions being severally read a second Time, were, upon the Question severally put thereupon, agreed unto by the House.

On the 21st of *May*, the Commons resolv'd to present four Addresses to his Majesty,

1st, For an Account how the 3000*l.* given by the last Parliament to the Chaplains of the Fleet, unprovided for, had been distributed.

2^{dly}, For an Account of what Quantities of Wool had been imported into this Kingdom from *Spain*, from *Christmas* 1708 to *Christmas* 1714.

3^{dly}, For an Account of what Quantities of *Cochineal* had been imported from *Christmas* 1708 to *Christmas* 1714, and from thence to the 1st of *May* 1715, distinguishing the Places from whence the said *Cochineal* came, &c.

And 4^{thly}, An Account of what Quantities of Wines have been imported from *France* or *Spain*, from *Christmas* 1708 to *Christmas* 1714, together with the Account of the Duties of such *French* and *Spanish* Wines.

The same Day, after some Time spent in the farther Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Hertford*, the same was again adjourn'd to the 24th of *May*.

The Honour of doing Justice to a Gentleman, who, on several Occasions, had done signal Service to the *English* Nation, and who for many Years had suffer'd, chiefly by the Envy of some of his own Countrymen, the *Scots*, seem'd reserv'd to this Parliament. For on Monday, the 23d of May, Mr. Broderick reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of *William Paterfon*, Esq; was refer'd, the Matter as it appear'd to them, and the Resolutions of the Committee thereupon; which he read in his Place, and afterwards deliver'd in at the Table, where the same were read; and after reading of this Report, a Bill was order'd to be brought in, *For relieving William Paterfon, Esq; out of the Equivalent Money, for what is due to him.* The same Day, the Commons, in a grand Committee on the Supply, came to this Resolution, viz. That to enable his Majesty to support the Dignity of the Crown, and to make an honourable Provision for the Royal Family, there be granted to his Majesty, during his Life, (which God long preserve) an additional Revenue of One hundred and twenty thousand Pounds *per Annum*; which, together with the near Produce of the Civil List Branches, may make up the clear yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds for the Service of his Majesty's Household and Family, and other his necessary Expences and Occasions. This Resolution was the next Day reported, and agreed to by the House: After which, a Bill was order'd to be brought in, *For shortening the Time for future publick Mournings*; and the Bill for continuing the Imprisonment of Robert Blackburne, and others, for the horrid Conspiracy, to assassinate the Person of his late Sacred Majesty King William the Third, was read the third Time, pass'd, and sent up to the Lords. Then the House proceeded to the farther Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Hertford*; and after a long Examination and Debate, that lasted till nine in the Evening, it was resolv'd, that *Charles Cesar*, Esq; and *Richard Gou'ston*, Esq; sitting Members, were not duly elected, and, on the contrary, that *Sir Thomas Clerk*, Kc. and *John Boteler*, Esq; Petitioners, were duly elected for the said Borough; as also resolv'd, That *Joseph Calton*, Mayor of the Borough of *Hertford*, is guilty of acting in an illegal and arbitrary Manner in the late Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the Borough of *Hertford*, in Contempt of the Act to prevent false and double Returns of Members to serve in Parliament, and in Breach of the Privilege of this House, and order'd, that the said *Joseph Calton* be, for the said Breach

Breach of Privilege, taken into the Custody of the Sergeant at Arms. Mr. *Cesar* bore so impatiently his being thrown out, that he could not forbear reflecting on the Proceedings of this House of Commons, comparing them to those of the Parliament of 1641; but the House took no Notice of his Asperion.

May 25. Several Papers that had been call'd for were laid before the Commons, who, upon the Reading of several Petitions, complaining of the exporting of Wooll and Yarn from *Ireland* to *France*, appointed a Committee to consider of the Laws in being for preventing the exporting of Wooll from *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; but rejected the Petition of the Shoemakers, Curriers, &c. of *Colchester*, praying that the Drawback of one Penny in the Pound, upon Leather exported, might be taken off.

On the 26th of May, the Quakers Bill was order'd to be engross'd; and after some other Business of less Importance, the House proceeded to the Hearing the Merits of the Election for the City of *New Sarum*, which was adjourn'd to the last Day of this Month; and order'd, that the Call of the House be farther adjourn'd to that Day Fortnight, being the 9th of June.

On the 27th, the Commons, in a grand Committee on Ways and Means, came to a Resolution, viz. That towards the Supply granted to his Majesty, the Duties laid by an Act of the ninth Year of her said Majesty, entitled, *An Act for laying a Duty upon Hops*, be continu'd from the 1st Day of June to Michaelmas next, which was reported, and agreed to the Monday following. The same Day, the Commons being inform'd, that both the Petitioners and sitting Members for the City of *New Sarum*, were willing, that the farther Hearing the Merits of the Election for the said City at the Bar of the House be discharg'd, the same was order'd to be discharg'd accordingly. Then Mr. *Hampden*, from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, reported their Resolutions touching the Election for the Town of *Cambridge*, viz.

1st, That the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Town of *Cambridge*, may hold a summon'd common Day-Court, and admit Freemen without six Aldermen of the said Town being then present.

2^{dly}, That Sir *John Hynde Cotton*, Bart. is duly elected a Burgess for the said Town.

3^{dly}, That *Thomas Selater*, Esq; also is duly elected for the said Town.

Upon a second Reading of these three Resolutions, the first and third were disagreed to, the second agreed to; and farther resolv'd, that *Samuel Shepherd*, Jun. Esq; was duly elected for the said Town of *Cambridge*. After this, the House adjourn'd till the Monday following, by Reason of the King's Birth-Day, which fell on the 28th.

On the 30th of *May*, after the Report of the Resolution before mention'd, for continuing the Tax upon Hops, a Clause was order'd to be inserted in the Malt-Bill for that Purpose, which was done accordingly the same Day, after *Mr. Farrer* had reported from the Committee of the whole House, the Amendments made to that Bill, which, with an Amendment to one of them, were agreed to; and so the Bill was order'd to be engross'd.

After this, *Mr. Chomly* and *Sir Richard Steele* were order'd to give the Thanks of the House to the Reverend *Dr. Ambrey*, for the Sermon by him preach'd before the House at *St. Margaret's, Westminster*, the Day before. Then, in a Committee of the whole House on the Supply, it was resolv'd to grant his Majesty the following several Sums.

1st, 2832*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* for the Military Officers and Chaplains who have serv'd in the Train of Artillery in *Flanders* and *Spain*, and in several Expeditions, to compleat their Half Pay for the Year 1715.

2^{dly}, 33525*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* for the Pay of seven Battalions, consisting of the Royal Regiment of Foot, and the Regiments of *Webb*, *Forfar*, *Hill*, *Orrery*, and *Sutton*, brought lately from *Flanders*, from the 29th of September 1714, (to which Time they were provided for by Parliament) until the 25th of March 1715, at which Time they were transferr'd to the Establishment of *Ireland*.

3^{dly}, 8461*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for the Pay of the three Battalions of *Harrison*, *North and Grey*, (now *Grove*) and *Sterve*, now in *Flanders*, from the 29th of September 1714, to the 25th of December following.

4^{thly}, 8183*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* for the Charge of Officers Servants of the Regiments in *Minorca* and *Gibraltar*, from the 25th of June 1713, to the 24th of December 1715, being one Year and an half.

5^{thly}, 468*l.* for Bounty-Money to disbanded Men of several Regiments, which were reduc'd, in Order to be transferr'd to the Establishment of *Ireland*.

6^{thly}, 20000*l.* for Support of the Royal Hospital at *Chelsea*, and Pay of the Out-Pensioners for the Year 1715.

over

from July 1714, to Jan. 1716. 157

over and above the several Poundages and Day's Pay, applicable therunto.

7thly, 53322l. for supplying the Deficiency of the Fund of the Classes Lottery in the Year 1711, for the Year ending at *Michaelmas*, 1714.

And 8thly, 52938l. 9s. 8d. for supplying the Deficiency of the Fund for the Classes Lottery, in the Year 1712, for the Year ending at *Michaelmas* 1714.

These Resolutions were, the next Day, (May 31) reported, and agreed to by the House; who afterwards proceeded to the Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Newcastle under Line*, in the County of *Stafford*, which was adjourn'd to the second Day of June next.

Having done with the Proceedings of the Commons, let us now attend those of the Lords during this Month: On Tuesday the 3d of May, their Lordships, according to Order, consider'd of the Petition of *Mrs. Mary Forster*, and after some Debates it was resolv'd, by a Majority only of two Voices, (*viz.* 50 against 48) that the said Petition be rejected. It was observ'd, that all the Bishops were against granting a Divorce; lest thereby they should weaken the sacred Bond of Matrimony.

Not many Days after, another Business of a very nice Nature came before the House of Peers. The eldest Son of the Lord Digby (an *Irish* Baron) being a Lunatick; and having, as was suggested, made several Attempts on his Father's Life, his Lordship petition'd the House of Peers for Leave to bring in a Bill to disinherit him. Their Lordships finding, upon strict Examination, that he was extreme weak in his Understanding, order'd a Bill to be brought in, *For appointing Persons to take Care of the Person and Estate of John Digby, Esq; eldest Son and Heir apparent of William Lord Digby, in the Kingdom of Ireland*; which was read the first Time on the 16th of May; but was not finish'd till the Beginning of June.

On the 30th of May, the House of Peers, in a grand Committee, consider'd of the Bill for regulating the Land Forces; and there arose a great Debate about a Clause for confining the several Regiments to those Parts of his Majesty's Dominions for which they are allotted: As for Instance, the 12000 Men that are on the *Irish* Establishment, to *Ireland*; and so forth. The Duke of *Buckingham*, the Lord *Trevor*, the Lord *North* and *Grey*, the Bishop of *Rocheſter*; and some others, spoke for the said Clause; but the Duke of *Mariborough*, and some other Lords,

shew'd the fatal Consequences it might be attended with, in Case of an Invasion from abroad, or of an Insurrection at home, by a Number of Enemies, Foreign or Domestick, superior to the Number of Forces actually on the Spot, where either of them should happen. The Whiggish Lords urg'd, 'That his Majesty having trusted his Royal Person and Family entirely in the Hands of the Nation, and, at the Opening of this Session, told the Parliament, *That what they should judge necessary for their Safety, he should think sufficient for his own*; the least they could do for his Majesty, was to leave to his great Wisdom and Discretion, the Disposol of the few Troops that were kept on Foot." Some Tory Lords mov'd, on the other Hand, that the foreign Officers might be excluded from that Number; but the Duke of Marlborough spoke in their Favour, and represented, 'That to exclude Officers, who, like the French Refugees, had, for above five and twenty Years, serv'd England with distinguish'd Zeal, and untainted Fidelity, would be a Piece of Injustice, unprecedented in the most barbarous Nations. After some other Speeches, *pro* and *con*, the Question was put, whether the Clauses before-mention'd should be inserted, and 'twas carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 81 Voices to 35. The next Day, the Lords read the Bill the 3d Time, which, with some Amendments, was approv'd, and order'd to be sent down back to the Commons. The same Day also their Lordships, in a grand Committee, went through the Bill, touching the Lord Digby's eldest Son.

June 1. The Lords sent down to the Commons, the Bill for the better regulating the Forces to be continued in his Majesty's Service, &c. and the Amendments made to the Bill by their Lordships being read, a Motion was made, and the Question put, that the farther Consideration of the said Amendments be adjourn'd, which was carry'd in the Negative; and then these Amendments were severally read a second Time, and agreed to by the House, Mr. Shippen, formerly one of the Commissioners of Publick Accompts, having, on this Occasion, reflected on the present Administration, as if they design'd to set up a Standing Army, and insinuated, as if, after all the great Clamour that had been rais'd, their Secret Committee would end in Smoke; he was smartly taken up by Mr. Boscawen, Controller of his Majesty's Household, who said, 'He could not forbear taking Notice of the Insolence of a certain Set of Men, who having committed the blackest Crimes

Crimes, had yet the Assurance to dare the Justice of the Nation; but that he hoped those Crimes would not long remain unpunish'd: That the Committee of Secrecy were ready to make their Report; and had directed their Chairman to move the House the very next Day, that a Day might be appointed for receiving the said Report; and that, in the mean Time, he might venture to assure the House, that they had found sufficient Matter to impeach of High Treason several Lords and some Commons." Mr. Robert Walpole said to the same Purpose, "That he wanted Words to express the Villany of the last Frenchify'd Ministry;" and General Stanhope added, "He wonder'd, that Men who were guilty of such enormous Crimes, had still the Audaciousness to appear in the publick Streets." The same Day, the Commons agreed to the Resolutions of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, touching the Election for the Borough of *Westbury* in the County of *Wilts*, being in Substance, That the Honourable *Willoughby Bertie*, Esq; and *Francis Annesley*, Esq; sitting Members, were not duly elected; and, on the contrary, that *George Lord Carbery*, of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, and *Charles Allanson*, Esq; Petitioners, were duly elected for the said Borough of *Westbury*. After this, the House also agreed with the Committee of Elections, in their Resolutions touching the Election of the Borough of *Bramber* in the County of *Suffex*, viz. That *Sir Thomas Styles*, Bart. sitting Member, was not, and that *Edward Minshull*, Esq; Petitioner, was duly elected for the said Borough of *Bramber*.

The same Day, there was a Debate in the Lords House, about the Bill for continuing the Imprisonment of the Conspirators against the Life of the late King William. A Petition having been offer'd to the Lords in their Behalf, the Lord *North* and *Grey* mov'd, that a Day might be appointed to consider of it, and was seconded by the Lord *Trevor*. They were oppos'd by the Lord Viscount *Townshend*, who said, "He wonder'd any Member of that August Assembly would speak in Favour of such execrable Wretches, who design'd to have embro'd their Hands in the Blood of their Sovereign; and mov'd, on the contrary, that their Petition be rejected." After this, the Lord *Delaware* represented, "That after the Death of King William, the Parliament had left to the Discretion of the late Queen, either the continuing in Prison, or enlarging of these Criminals: That no Body doubted, her late Majesty's being a Princess of great Clemency; but that, at

the same Time, she had such a Respect for the Memory of King *William*, such a Regard to the Safety of crown'd Heads, and such an Abhorrence for the Crimes with which these Prisoners stood charg'd, that she did not think fit to release them from their Confinement: That all these Reasons and Considerations were now enforc'd, by the open Disaffection, which some People shew'd to his Majesty's Person and Government; and that they ought to be so tender of the Preservation of so precious a Life as his Majesty's, that, in his Opinion, it were necessary to make the Act in Question absolute, and not leave the Confinement of the Criminals to his Majesty's Discretion, lest his natural Clemency should make him overlook his own Safety." He concluded, with seconding the Lord Viscount *Townshend's* Motion for rejecting the Petition, which was carry'd without dividing.

June 2. Several Accounts and Papers that had been call'd for, were laid before the House: After which, the Malt-Bill was read the third Time, pass'd, and sent up to the Lords; as was also the Quakers Bill. Then *Robert Walpole*, Esq; acquainted the House from the Committee of Secrecy, "That they had examin'd the Books and Papers refer'd to them, and had Matters of the greatest Importance to lay before the House; and that the Committee had directed him to move the House, that a Day might be appointed for receiving their Report." Upon which, after a small Debate, it was order'd, that the said Report be receiv'd upon that Day Sev'nnight; and that all the Members do attend the Service of this House upon that Day Sev'nnight, upon Pain of incurring the highest Displeasure of this House. Then the House proceeded to the farther Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Newcastle under Line*; and after having heard Counsel, and examin'd Witnesses, on both Sides, resolv'd, That *Rowland Cotton*, Esq; and *Henry Vernon* of *Sudbury*, Esq; sitting Members, were not duly elected; and, on the contrary, that *Crew Osley*, Esq; and Sir *Bryan Broughton*, Bart. were duly elected Burgeses to serve in this present Parliament for the said Borough.

On the 3d of June, after the Reading of several Petitions of several Merchants, and other Sufferers by the late dreadful Fire in *Thames-street*, which were refer'd to a Committee, the Commons read the third Time, pass'd, and sent to the Lords, an ingross'd Bill for shortening the Time of the Yule Vacance in that Part of Great Britain call'd Scotland. The same Day, the King came to the House

from July 1714, to Jan. 1716. 161

House of Peers with the usual State and Solemnity, and the Commons being sent for up, and attending, his Majesty was pleas'd to give the Royal Assent to,

An Act for charging and continuing the Duties on Malt, Mum, Cyatr, and Perry, for the Service of the Year 1715, and for making forth Duplicates of Exchequer-Bills and Lottery Tickets lost, burnt, or destroy'd; and for enlarging the Time for adjusting Claims in several Lotteries, and for making forth new Orders in lieu of certain Lottery Orders obliterated or defective; and for continuing certain Duties on Hops, until the 1st Day of August, 1715.

An Act for the better regulating the Forces to be continu'd in his Majesty's Service, and for the Payment of the said Forces, and of their Quarters.

After the King was gone, the Lords adjourn'd to Thursday the 9th of June; and the Commons being return'd to their House, order'd, that the Committee of Secrecy have Leave to sit during the Adjournment of the House, who then adjourn'd till Wednesday the 8th of June, by Reason of the Whitsuntide Holidays.

June 8. The Commons met again, read a second Time, and committed the Bill for appointing Persons to take Care of the Person and Estate of the Lord Digby's eldest Son; and, in a Committee of the whole House, went through the Bill in Favour of Mr. Paterfon. After this, upon the Reading the Order of the Day, for the House to resolve itself into a grand Committee on the Supply, it was order'd, 1st, That the List of the Protestant Officers of Baron de Barle's late Regiment of Dragoons. 2d/y, The List of the Officers of Lieutenant-General Hamilton's late Regiment of Foot; and, 3d/y, The Abstract of what is due to several Foreign Troops for Pay and Extraordinaries to the Day of Separation, and also what is due to Foreign Princes for Subsidies to the same Time, be referr'd to the Consideration of the said Committee, into which the House resolv'd itself immediately. But notwithstanding what was alledg'd in Favour of the Officers of Baron de Barle's late Regiment, the Committee did not think fit to admit them to Half Pay.

June 9. A Bill for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, was read the second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House. After this, Mr. Wapole, from the Committee of Secrecy, acquainted the House, That he had a Report to present; (according to their Order) but that

he had the Commands of the Committee to make a Motion to the House before he read the Report; that there are in the Report Matters of the highest Importance: That although the Committee had Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, they did not think fit to make Use thereof, believing it to be necessary, in order to bring Offenders to Justice, that some Persons should be secur'd, before 'tis possible they should know what they are to be examin'd to, and lest they should have Notice from what should be read in the Report, to make their Escape: He was commanded by the Committee (according to former Precedents) to move, that a Warrant may be issu'd by Mr. Speaker, to apprehend certain Persons who shall be nam'd to him by the Chairman of the said Committee; and that no Members may be permitted to go out of the House.

Hereupon it was order'd, 1st, That the Lobby be clear'd of all Strangers, and the Back-Doors of the Speaker's Chamber be lock'd up, and the Key brought and laid upon the Table; and that the Serjeant do stand at the Door of the House, and suffer no Member to go forth.

2^{dly}, That Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Serjeant at Arms attending this House, to take into his Custody such Persons as shall be nam'd to Mr. Speaker by the Chairman of the Committee of Secrecy, in order to their being examin'd before the said Committee.

Hereupon Mr. Speaker issu'd out his Warrants to the Serjeant Arms, to take into his Custody several Persons that were nam'd to him by Mr. *Walpole*, particularly Mr. *Matthew Prior*, and Mr. *Thomas Harley*, the first of whom was immediately apprehended, and the other some Hours after.

This done, Mr. *Walpole* acquainted the House, 'That the Committee of Secrecy had perus'd the Books and Papers refer'd to them, and had agreed upon a Report, which they had commanded him to make: That it was contain'd in two Books, one of which was the Report, by Way of Appendix to it, and contain'd at large those Letters and Papers which were refer'd to in the Report. And he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards deliver'd the same in at the Table, together with the Appendix, and the Books which were refer'd to the said Committee. The Reading of the said Report having lasted about five Hours, viz. from One till about Six in the Afternoon, a Motion was made by the Friends of the late Ministry, and the Question put, That the farther

farther Consideration of the Report be adjourn'd till the next Morning, but the same being carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 282 Votes to 171, it was order'd, that the Report be now read: And the Clerk of the House having read Part of it, till half an Hour past Eight, the farther Consideration of it was adjourn'd till the next Morning, as was the Call of the House to the 20th of June.

•Before we proceed, it is necessary to give our Readers, 1st, A general Idea of this important Report; and 2^{dly}, As exact and comprehensive an Abstract of it as the Matter will bear.

In the first Place, we must observe, that the several Books and Papers referr'd to the Committee chiefly related to the late Negotiations of Peace and Commerce. 2. To the intended Demolition of *Dunkirk*. 3. To the obtaining and disposing of the *Affiento* Contract. 4. To some Negotiations concerning the *Catalans*: And 5. To secret Transactions relating to the Pretender. The Committee in this Report only went through the Books and Papers that relate to the 1st, 4th, and 5th Heads; and reserv'd for another Report, the Affairs of *Dunkirk* and the *Affiento*.

The first Part of this Report may be subdivided into ten Points, viz. 1st, The clandestine Negotiations with Monsieur *Mefnager*, which produc'd two Sets of preliminary Articles; the one private and special for Great Britain only, the other General for all the Allies. 2^{dly}, The extraordinary Measures pursu'd to form the Congress at *Utrecht*. 3^{dly}, The Trifling, and Amusements of the French Plenipotentiaries at *Utrecht*, by the Connivance of the British Ministers. 4^{thly}, The Negotiation about the Renunciation of the Spanish Monarchy. 5^{thly}, The fatal Suspension of Arms. 6^{thly}, The Seizure of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, in order to distress the Allies, and Favour the French. 7^{thly}, The Duke of *Camond's* acting in Concert with the French General. 8^{thly}, The Lord *Bolingbroke's* Journey to France to negotiate a separate Peace. 9^{thly}, Mr *Prior's* and the Duke of *Shrewsbury's* Negotiations in France. And, 10^{thly}, The precipitate Conclusion of the Peace at *Utrecht*.

After this, the Committee offer to the House what they have found material in the Papers refer'd to them, concerning the *Catalans*, and the Pretender; insert at large a Letter from the Earl of *Oxford* to the Queen, dated June the

the 9th, 1714; together with an Account of publick Affairs from *August* the 8th, 1710, to *June* the 8th 1714; and conclude with taking Notice of several glaring Inconsistencies, that are obvious to every Body, by comparing the late Queen's Declarations, with the Measures her Ministers presum'd to take in carrying on these important Negotiations.

Abstract of the Report of the Committee of Secrecy.

THE Committee was in Hopes, in so voluminous an Enquiry, to have been able to trace out the whole Progress of these Negotiations; but, to their Surprise, they find a Want of several Papers referr'd to in those that have been deliver'd to them, and frequent and long Interruptions of some very material Correspondences that were carry'd on: But, however, the Committee proceeded to draw up the following Report, warranted and founded upon such Authorities, as the Persons concern'd vouchsafed not to suppress.

The first material Paper is entitled, *The first Propositions of France*, sign'd by Monsieur de Torcy, *April* 22, 1711, N. S. To whom these Propositions were directed, what previous Steps had been made on the Part of *France*, or what Encouragement had been given on the Part of *England*, does not appear; but it is evident, that they are conceiv'd in very loose and general Terms; that from the Beginning, the Design of *France* was to secure *Spain* and the *West-Indies* to King *Philip*, to create Jealousies among the Allies; and that *France* offer'd to treat with *England* and *Holland*, either by themselves, or jointly with the rest of the Allies, which was left to the Choice of *England*.

On the 27th of *April*, 1711, O. S. Mr. Secretary St. John, transmits these Propositions to Lord Raby, the Queen's Ambassador at the *Hague* with Orders to communicate them to the Pensionar, To assure that Minister, the Queen was resolv'd in making Peace, as in making War, to act in perfect Concert with the States, and desires the Secret may be kept among as few as possible; he confesses that the Terms of the several Propositions are very general; that there is an Air of Complaisance shown to *England*, and the contrary to *Holland*, which might be of ill Consequence, but can be of none, as long as the Queen and States take Care to understand each other, and to act with as little Reserve as becomes two Powers so nearly ally'd

ally'd in Interest; and desires the Pensionary to be assur'd, that this Rule shall, on our Part, be inviolably observ'd.

Lord Raby, by his Letters of *May* the 25th and 26th, 1711, N. S. to Mr. *St. John*, in answer to these Orders and Assurances, acquaints him, That the Pensionary had, with those of that State, who had been formerly employ'd in the Negotiations of Peace, consider'd Monsieur *de Torcy's* Propositions, and the obliging Manner in which her Majesty was pleas'd to communicate them; that they thank'd her Majesty for her Confidence in them, and assure her, that theirs is reciprocal; and that, as her Majesty had promis'd, she will make no Step towards a Peace but in Concert with them, they desire she may be assur'd of the same on their Part; and they urge the Necessity of an entire Confidence in one another, at this critical Juncture; they declare themselves weary of the War, which they endeavour to conceal from the Enemy, lest he should make his Advantage by it; and that they are ready to join in any Measures, which her Majesty shall think proper, to obtain a good Peace. But they look upon these Propositions as yet, in the same Manner as the Secretary does, to be very dark and general, and designed to create Jealousies between her Majesty, that Republick, and the Allies; but they depend upon her Majesty's Justice and Prudence, to prevent any such ill Effect, and hope she will make the *French* explain more particularly, the several Points contain'd in them.

After these mutual Assurances betwixt *England* and *Holland*, the Committee is surpriz'd to find not the least Communication to the States, of the Negotiations that were carrying on for above five Months together, betwixt *England* and *France*, till after the special Preliminaries were sign'd, and the seven general Preliminaries were concluded, and sent to them.

In the mean Time, Lord Raby, not being as yet let into the Secret, freely declared. He thought it adviseable and necessary to act openly with the States in this Matter of the Propositions; acquaints the Secretary, that all the Letters from *France* agreed, that all the Hopes the *French* had, was to sow Jealousies among the Allies; and repeats his Advice, That we must act cautiously with them (the States) that they may have no Reason to accuse us, for taking the least Measures without them.

But it was not long before Mr. Secretary *St. John*, prepar'd his Excellency to have other Sentiments of the Manner of carrying on this Negotiation, and in his Letter of
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the 29th of *May*, acquaints him with the agreeable News, That it was Her Majesty's Pleasure, that his Excellency should make all possible Haste to come over, since her Service may better dispence with his Absence at this Point of Time, than it will perhaps do at another; and, since we must now expect to have very soon upon the *Tapis*, many Intrigues, concerning which, the Queen thinks it expedient that he should confer with the Ministers here; acquaints him, that her Majesty design'd, upon his Arrival, to give him the Promotion in the Peerage, which he had desir'd. And then, that his Excellency might begin to have some Notions agreeable to the Sense of our Ministers, *Mr. St. John*, in Answer to some very long Letters of his Lordship's, full of his own Reasonings, and the repeated Assurances of the Ministers of the States to act in perfect Concert, and with an entire Confidence in her Majesty, tells him in these Words, That *Britain* had gone so much too far, in weaving her Interest into that of the Continent, that it would prove no easy Task to disentangle our Affairs without tearing or rending.

But this Work of Tearing and Rending did not at all discourage his Excellency, who waiting then for several Posts from *England*, stopp'd by contrary Winds, and beginning to suspect that the Course of the Negotiation was turn'd into another Channel; that the Ministry here might be satisfy'd that his Lordship could, without much Difficulty, depart from his own Opinion, he declares in his Letter of *June* the 16th, 1711, N. S. to *Mr. St. John*; 'You may be assur'd, I will venture any thing, and undertake any thing to serve the Queen; you may venture boldly to trust me with the real Intentions, and be assur'd, I will not make further Use of them than according to my Instructions.' He tells him, If the Thing is actually gone no further than it appears, and *France* has not yet explain'd, and he has a Mind that he should come over for the Queen's Service, he is ready to come in a Yacht, Frigate, Pacquet-Boat, or any way; and concludes in short, Dispose of me how you please, for all my desire is to serve her Majesty to her Satisfaction, and I shall never grudge any Danger and Pains. This voluntary and frank Declaration, his Excellency desir'd in a particular Manner, might, with his humble Compliments, be communicated to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, and *Mr. Harley*.

The Committee observe, That if the *Dutch* had made any Attempt to wrest the Negotiation out of the Hands of the Queen, if they had enter'd into any separate Measures,

or taken any Steps that might give just Occasion of Offence or Suspicion to *England*, 'tis very probable the Accounts of any such Proceedings would have been left by the Ministry for their own Justification; but the Committee do not find the least Intimation of this Kind, and are at a Loss to know upon what Pretence such solemn Assurances were dispens'd with as soon as made, and the Honour and Name of the Queen sacrificed to the private Views of her Ministers.

All Transactions betwixt *England* and *France* during this Time, except two or three Papers, are entirely suppress'd, which, in the Lord *Strafford's* Instructions of *October* the 1st, 1711, are said to have been carry'd on by Papers sent backward and forward, and much Time spent therein; the first Paper that is found, is call'd, *Private Propositions sent by Mr. Prior from England, dated July 1.* The next is a Paper call'd, *Mr. Prior's Authority*; this is sign'd *Anne R.* at the Top, and *A. R.* at the Bottom; not countersign'd, and is without a Date; and the Contents are, *Mr. Prior* is fully instructed and authorized to communicate to *France* our Preliminary Demands, and to bring us back the Answer. Which two Papers must be understood to be *Mr. Prior's* Powers and Instructions; but by an Entry in the Lord *Strafford's* Book, subjoin'd to these private Propositions carry'd over by *Mr. Prior*, it appears, that *Mr. Prior* had Orders to see if *France* had full Powers from *Spain*.

These Propositions which were form'd here, leave no Room to doubt of the little Concern the Ministry had, to make good the repeated Assurances that had been given to the Allies, in the Queen's Name, to make the *French* more plain and particular, since, in all Things that concern the Allies, the *English* Proposals are as dark and general as those that came from *France*; and if this still could be any Question, it is sufficiently clear'd up in a third Paper, entituled, *Draught of Answers upon the Conference with Monsieur Mesnager*, wherein the *British* Ministry is much surpriz'd to find that *Monsieur Mesnager* had Orders to insist, that the Queen should enter into particular Engagements upon divers Articles which depend not upon her, and which regard the Interest of the Allies; they appeal to all the Papers which had been sent backward and forward during this Négociation, and to that which was carry'd by *Mr. Prior*, that the Principle upon which they had treated all along was, That *France* should consent to adjust the Interests of *Great Britain* in the first Place. This is a Principle from which the Queen can never depart; and that