

The Conventicle :

OR, A

NARRATIVE

OF THE

Dissenters New Plot

AGAINST

The Present Constitution in Church and State.

With the NAMES of the Plotters, and their
PLACES of Meeting.

Humbly address'd to Her Most Excellent Majesty,
By ONE OF THE CONSPIRATORS,
and ready to be depos'd upon Oath before her
Principal Secretary of State.

To which is added,
*The REASONS for disabling all Dissenters for ever voting
more for Parliament-Men, and for wholly Repealing the
Act of Toleration.*

WITH
A FEW QUERIES to those *English Schismatics*,
whose further Growth is now prevented by Act of Par-
liament. With a *Vindication* of the said ACT, against
all Dissenters and Low-Churchmen whatsoever.

Accipitres pugnant, dulce loquuntur aves. Ovid.

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High-Church Loyalty :

O R,

The Secret *HISTORY* of the *Anti-Schismatics*.

B E I N G

A Necessary Introduction to the following Essay, intitl'd,
THE CONVENTICLE: Or, A Narrative of
the Dissenters (or, as they are now call'd, *SCHISMA-*
TICKS) *New Plot.*

Humbly Address'd,

To Her Most Excellent Majesty,

A N N E,

By the Grace of G O D,

Of Great-Britain, France and Ireland,

Q U E E N,

Defender of the Faith.

M A D A M,

THE late Addresses from all Parts of the King-
dom, describing the *Protestant Dissenters and Low*
Churchmen as Persons of Antimonarchical Prin-
ciples, Republicans, Traytors to their Queen,
and at best, *SCHISMATICKS*, it has excited me (once a
Conspirator amongst 'em) to detect all that *Disloyalty and*

4 *High-Church Loyalty; or,*

Treason I could possibly find in 'em, so long as I continu'd one of their Number.

This Narrative of *The Dissenters new Plot*, being publish'd for the Safety of your Majesty's Person, and the Satisfaction of the British Nation; I hope 'twill in some measure excuse my presuming to address the same to your *Royal Name and Patronage*; and the rather, as I most humbly assure your Majesty, that the Discoveries I here make of *the Dissenters Plots*, wholly spring from an inbred indelible *Love and Loyalty* to your Majesty's Person and Government.

Great and many are the *Arts*, that have been, and may yet be used in vain, both at home and abroad, to suppress and traduce the *Evidence and Discoveries* made in the following Narrative, by those who (like the L—— H—— T—— r, and V—— B——) are more zealous and industrious not to be thought or suspected, rather than really not to be *very Traytors and Rebels* against your Majesty; however (MADAM) some daring Flights in *Treason and Wickedness* have been pardon'd for the sake of their *Boldness*.

Colonel *BLOU D* was pardon'd, for his daring to steal the Crown.

Dr. *BEDFORD* was pardon'd (the most infamous part of his Sentence) for publishing the Pretender's *LARGER DECLARATION*, which he calls, *The Hereditary Right of the Crown of England Asserted*.

And *TWO* greater *Villains* than Dr. *Bedford* do still flourish in your M——y's C——rt, tho guilty of a worse *Treason* than I have yet named, (*viz.* the betraying their *Queen* and *Country*, by *PLOTTING* a Separate P——, and Ruining our Trade by *pernicious Articles*) but 'tis a *sort of Pardon* for these *TRAYTORS*, that they are not *Schismatics*, (tho they were once Dissenters) for 'tis only in such, that every *Suspicion* is made a *Crime*, and every *Crime Capital*.

How far the *Protestant Dissenters*, and *Low Churchmen* have deserv'd to be thus treated, I have look'd into, ever since our *Anti-Schismatics* (or Religious Parliament) propos'd *A Bill* to prevent the Growth of *Schism*; and what Success I had

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had in the Search, will appear by the following NARRATIVE, which I here *address* to your Majesty, not only as a loyal Subject will discover whatever PLOTS he is privy to, that 'tis *necessary for his Prince or Country to know*; but as I thought it would be *some Vindication of the Schism Act*, to make the Dissenters as odious as possible; and I may venture to say, *nothing has 'scap'd my Discovery* which would bear the least Shadow (or Reflection) of Dishonour to the *Soul or Body* of any Dissenter or Low Churchman.

I own (MADAM) 'tis on several Accounts dangerous to publish *the Names of the Whig-Plotters, their Places of Meeting, and Secret Cabals*; and I should be afraid of making these NEW DISCOVERIES, (before I had obtain'd your Majesty's Pardon) were I not assur'd that all those *Rays of Mercy and Forgiveness that are diffus'dly scatter'd in your Majesty's Subjects, are all concenter'd in your Royal Breast*. But tho all the GOODNESS and MODERATION we find in the Kingdom, has its Vigour and Life, if not its *very Original, in the Queen of England*; yet none of your Majesty's Dissenting Subjects are yet arriv'd to this *Perfection in Vertue*, neither is it possible they ever should, that Loyal Saint, Dr. Bisse, having assur'd the Parliament, (a) ' *That your Majesty's Character has this peculiar Lustre, with which you out-shine all other Persons, That you are allow'd to be the best Christian, that the Age in which you live, has produc'd.*

But tho your Majesty be thus Good and Matchless (or rather an *Angel incarnate*) throughout the whole Course of your GLORIOUS REIGN; yet none of your WHIG SUBJECTS (but more especially those that are call'd *Schismatics*) can pretend to be thus REFIN'D; and therefore I'll now STEAL into every *Conventicle*, to discover whether the Dissenters are such TERRIBLE PLOTTERS as they are represented, for my Talent lies in finding of Faults; and I can't think our GODLY SENATE (as they are now taking *The Shortest Way with the*

(a) *In his Sermon preach'd before the Honourable House of Commons, May 29. 1714.*

Dissenters) will be displeas'd with me that I attempt to prove *the Dissenters are all Plotters!* However (MADAM) in this RELIGIOUS SEARCH, I shall only expose *the Anabaptists, Presbyterians and Independents* (if I find 'em Guilty) for THE QUAKERS (by their LIGHT within) despising *Baptism and the Lord's-Supper*, they can't be CHRISTIANS, and therefore not worth my Notice.

I suppose 'twill be a hard Matter to perswade your Majesty to have an ill Opinion of those WHIGG-PATRIOTS who once sav'd the Nation by *Anti-Tacking*, and of those DISSENTING MINISTERS who by their Loyal Addresses tell the World, *Your Majesty has the true Art of Governing which consists in acquiring Reverence and Love; that you maintain the Church of England, without persecuting the Dissenters, and by your pious Life give us abundant Matter to fill the Annals of a glorious Reign.*

Peace But (MADAM) tho' 'it must be acknowledg'd that *the Dissenters* were thus Loyal in their Addresses, to their SOVERAIGN LADY, before the separate P— had fill'd 'em with Fears of a Popish Successor, and that ever since the P— their very Silence (or Non-Addressing) has been an Act of Loyalty to your Majesty's Person and Government, as it proves they durst not flatter your M— so far as to call that a GLORIOUS P— that has brought an eternal Scandal on the English Name, smooth'd the Pretender's Way to the Throne, and retriev'd the lost Glory of the French Tyrant, and yet all this DISSENTING LOYALTY, as much as it intitles the Whiggs to your Majesty's Favour, has had no better Effect on my TORY-SPIRIT, but to excite me to try what Treason I cou'd find in a Conventicle, and as my Design was to write a general Narrative of all the Dissenter's Plots, I enquire of *Anti-Schismatics* that formerly stood in the Royal Presence, but more especially of those *Jacobite Spies* (the Examiner, Monitor, and Post-Boy) that the L—d ~~Treasurer~~ hires weekly to bring him Intelligence what VIOLENT DEATH (whether Flaying, Racking, Scalding, Beheading, Burning or De-witting) the Inrag'd Whiggs are PLOTTING against him; but to revenge the Affronts that

that the Spectator, Patriot, Medley, German-Doctor, Flying-Post, Steel, Horneck, Dunton, and other Whigg-Writers offer daily to your Majesty's CHIEF FAVOURITE, I have in the following Sheets narrowly searcht into the Dissenters Plots, ever since Calvin's Time, down to the present Year, and when nothing is squeez'd out that can (tho' but colourably) blacken their spotless Fame, I call for Eyes to penetrate into the very Recesses of their Pious Soul, and if that be White and Innocent too, I fall to tax even their Piety and Wisdom.

MADAM, I have also attempted (in this Narrative) to prove the Dissenters GUILTY OF SCHISM, but here (I confess) my Labour was wholly lost, for I cou'd do no better Service to the Church of England by this Search, but only to shew myself A SCHISMATICK, and the Dissenters ORTHODOX: For as Dr. Calamy well observes, (a) 'There can be no Schism
' in Scripture Account, where there is not an uncharitable
' Alienation of Christian Hearts from each other, because
' of their differing Apprehensions about lesser Things of
' Religion.

This being the true Scripture Notion of SCHISM, if there be any Schismatics concern'd in this Controversy, 'tis only those of the Church of England that wou'd force Scrupulous Consciences to Terms of Communion, that they think unlawful: For the learned HALES says expressly, 'Where Cause of Schism is necessary, (as
' the Dissenters say it is, where they must Sin against
' their Consciences, if they comply with the Rites and
' Ceremonies of the Church of England) there not he that
' seperates, but he that is the Cause of the Separation, is
' the Schismatick: And I find that Famous Prelate, Bishop Stillingfleet, exactly of this Opinion; for he tells the World, (b) 'God will one Day convince Men, that
' the Unity of the Church lies more in the Unity of Faith
' and Affection than in Uniformity of Doubtful Rights and
' Ceremonies, by which it appears that Dissenters are

(a) In his Abridgment of Mr. Baxter's History of his Life and Times, P. 281, 284. (b) In his Treatise call'd Irenicum.

no Ways GUILTY OF SCHISM: (and consequently can't justly suffer any Penalty by the *Schism-Act*) But (MADAM) tho' I plead the Dissenter's Cause where *common Honour and Justice* obliges me to it, yet I hope the following NARRATIVE will convince your Majesty's TORY-SUBJECTS, I am *High-Church*; for where I can't Tax the Dissenters with *any Plot against Church or State, or with the least Appearance of Schism*, (like that *TOOL* of the Jacobite Party, Dr. ~~S~~rel, or that more furious *Wittal*, Dr. *W*—ton) I fail to WISH that their *Snowy Innocence* wou'd take a *Crimson Dye*, and be (tho' but superficially) CRIMINAL, as believing no Treatment can be too cruel for a Dissenter, when even A COMMUNION of SAINTS (as Mr. *Steel* calls our *Pious Commons*) (a) have been so zealous to prevent the Growth of Schism, that they have VOTED the Dissenters not fit to live, for the suppressing *Dissenting Tutors and Schoolmasters* (when they have no other Way to subsist) is the same Thing (tho' not so declar'd by *Act of Parliament*) as to Murder 'em in cold Blood.

Perhaps (MADAM) this great Severity towards Protestant Dissenters, *that agree with the Church of England in all Points necessary to Salvation*, will be Thought a little unseasonable, as 'tis taking *DE FOE'S Shortest Way with the Dissenters*, and that at a Time when a firm Union amongst all Protestants is so absolutely necessary, to defeat THE PRETENDER'S PLOT to introduce Popery; but seeing JACOBITE PLOTS are now little inspected (it being a common saying with High Churchmen, 'That the Papists are better than the Presbyterians') 'twill be a real Service both to Church and State at this Juncture, to discover what HORRID PLOTTERS the Dissenters are, and this will best appear, by informing your MAJESTY,—That the Protestant Dissenters were very instrumental in the Glorious Revolution by King William— That they paid their Share in the Taxes for the whole

(a) In his Letter to a Member of Parliament, concerning the Schism Bill.

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Time of the late War, with greater Readiness than your Majesty's Tory-Subjects as appear'd, by their great dislike of a Separate Peace — That they pray earnestly (both in Publick and Private) for your Majesty's long Life and Reign:—That they resolve to venture their Lives (when the Pretender Lands) in Defence of the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious House of Hanover—And do now (to shew their distinguishing Love to your Majesty's Person and Government) promise, besides the five Thousand Pounds, and hundred Thousand already promis'd, a further Reward of 50000 l. to any Person that will bring the Pretender alive or dead, to the Secretary's Office at White-hall; and the City of London, 'tis said, have done like Protestants, by adding 50000 l. to the Rewards offer'd before by your Majesty, by the British Senate, and by the Protestant Dissenters; and I am told BY A PERSON OF HONOUR, that whenever the Irish Parliament is suffer'd to meet, that they will Vote 50000 l. more, to any one that shall take the Pretender. 50000 l. Enough to Purchase 50000 Sham Pretenders, one wou'd think: I can assure your Majesty I would give them all up, if in my Power, for half a Farthing; nay, all the Rewards bidden should not bribe me to keep them! But (alafs, Madam) tho' the Pretender is 'like to meet with great Opposition in his Way to the British Throne the Protestant Dissenters and Low-Churchmen having been long PLOTTING (by an Association and daily Prayers to the Lord of Hosts) to frustrate his intended Invasion, and will all venture their Lives in Defence of their rightful and ever glorious Queen; yet, as the chief Design of this Address was to give your Majesty, a View of HIGH-CHURCH LOYALTY, (or the Secret History of our Anti-Schismaticks) I cou'd not be a faithful Subject, did I not inform your Majesty, ' That the Piety and Probity of General Monk, his ART OF RESTORING, seems to be the Pattern of our present Measures, and God only knows, whether the Success may not be as much the same, as the means us'd (by O— and B—) certainly are for to Offer such great Rewards to take the Pretender, when there is not so

B

much

much as a *Pocket-Pistol* or *Small Fly-Boat* fitting out to prevent his Landing, seems such an **ANTI-SCHISMATICK JEST**, as will never pass for *Earnest* with any Dissenter or Low-Church-Man, that en't *stark staring Mad*; for like **A COURT-WATERMAN**, it *looks one Way, and Rows another*, which I think all the World does, but our *Sovereign Lady*, but as your Majesty *always was consistent with yourself*, and in **GOOD EARNEST** to hang the Pretender, (as appears by your Offering 5000 l. out of your own Revenue to take him, *whenever he Lands or Attempts to Land*) ' So 'tis to be ' hop'd, that a wise and valiant People whether they be ' *Dissenters, Low-Churchmen, or Anti-Schismatics* (for 'tis ' hop'd **THE HIGH-CHURCH PERSECUTORS**, are not all Jacobites) will not content themselves only with offering 200000 l. for him whom they are inform'd in a few Hours may be at the Head of an Army of 40000 Men, least what **SOLON** said to **CRESUS** (when in Ostentation he shew'd him his Gold) shou'd be objected upon us, ' *Sir, if any other come that bath better Iron than you, he will be Master of all this Gold.*

MADAM, whoever believes all these **DISCOVERIES**, concerning the Dissenters, to be Matter of Fact, and yet does not believe they are now engag'd in a *deep Conspiracy against the present Constitution in Church and State*, won't be fit to believe **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**, when the Pretender comes to **ESTABLISH** Popery in *Great-Britain*, and consequently ought *instantly to prepare for Martyrdom*: However (as Paradoxical as some may think it) these several **DISCOVERIES** (of *Whigg-Loyalty, Whigg-Courage, Whigg-Devotion, Whigg-Charity, Whigg-Innocence, and other Revulsion or Whigg-Principles* are all prov'd to be **HORRID PLOTS** against your Majesty's Person and Government.

MADAM, it must be acknowledg'd, that the Dissenters formerly lay *so near to your Royul Heart*, that you gave 'em a **TOLERATION** of their Religion by *Law*, and a solemn Promise to maintain it **INVIOLABLE**: And several *Illustrious Peers*, to shew how much the Dissenters have deserv'd your Majesty's Royal Protection, (in their *Pro-*

test against the Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism) declare,
' That the Protestant Dissenters have join'd, and are still
' willing to join with us, in our Defence against the Pre-
' tender. ---- That their Zeal is very conspicuous for the
' Protestant Succession in the *Illustrions House of Hannover.*
' ---- That they have not abused that *Toleration* that was
' granted to them by former Parliaments. ---- That they
' are (*being Rich and Numerous*) the Bulwark of the Pro-
' testant Religion in *Ireland.*' So that to persecute the
Protestant Dissenters in *Great-Britain*, (but more especial-
ly in *Ireland*, where there is *Ten Papists to One Protestant*)
will not only weaken the Protestant Interest in *that Coun-*
try, but may encourage the *IRISH PAPISTS* to venture on
a *Second Massacre.* And therefore whoever considers the
Honour and sacred Word of a Prince, (whose Royal Motto
is *SEMPER EADEM*) can never think that your Ma-
jesty (who has ever been a Glorious and a COMMON
MOTHER to all your People) will suffer the Dissenters to
be long insulted, or their GROWTH to be always sup-
press'd. However (*MADAM*) as I have prov'd the *Dis-*
senters are all Plotters, it will scarce be deny'd, but MY
REASONS [*For disabling all Dissenters for ever voting more*
for Parliament-Men, and for wholly repealling the Act of Tole-
ration] will please the PERSECUTING PART of the Church
of *England*; or such *Anti-Schismaticks*, who had much ra-
ther pass a Bill to prevent the Growth of Piety, than a Bill
to prevent the Growth of Whoredom, Drunkenness, and Swear-
ing. Neither is this Surmize the least Reflection on your
Majesty's *Illustrions Piety and Moderation*; for the best and
wisest of Princes (as your Majesty is acknowledg'd to be
by all your Subjects, how ever they may DISSENT in other
Matters) are forc'd sometimes to see and hear by the Eyes
and Ears of their Ministers, and consequently their WORST
ACTIONS are in some Sence none of their own, and may
be intended to prevent the Growth of that very Schism
and Discord that their *Corrupt Ministers* design'd to pro-
mote by an *Act of Parliament*; of which we have a noto-
rious Instance in *HARRY GAMBAL* (the lewdest
Rake of a *Privy Council* for that ever was yet known)

St John ^B Dist. Bolinbroke for

for I am inform'd, this High-Church Cully publickly glory'd in it, as the chiefest of Three Atchievements perform'd by him in one Day, *viz.* ' That he had done the
 ' *Business of those damn'd Dogs the Dissenters in the Morning,*
 ' *been drunk with the best Champaign in the Afternoon, and at*
 ' *Night went to Bed to the finest Whore in England, and had*
 ' *the pleasure to be tuck'd up by a couple of Peers.' And I fear, if we should search a little into the Characters of some others of our *Anti-Schismatics*, we should find (by their lewd and debauch'd Lives) that their great Zeal for passing the Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism, was more to prevent the spreading of that Dissenting Piety, that is very zealous to promote a Reformation of Manners, than to prevent the Growth of Schism: For what real desire can that SENATOR have to prevent the Growth of Schism, that actually keeps a Wh--- himself, or perhaps three or four, (as 'tis well known, most of our *Anti-Schismatics* do.) Or if (by Chance) we happen to meet with an *Anti-Schismatick* (or High Churchman) of good Morals, and a chaste Life; yet what a Superstitious Bigot generally is he to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England? Tho, as Bishop Hall well observes, ' 'Tis not a Title, or Retinue, or a
 ' *Ceremony, or a Garment, or a Colour, or an Organ-pipe,*
 ' *that can make up a different Church.' And, therefore I assure your Majesty, tho I hope to live and dye in the Communion of the Establish'd Church, That the Power of Godliness is that which I have a much greater regard to, than the FORMS of it, or to a few Rites and Ceremonies which our Church has declar'd Indifferent; and which to me are still the more Indifferent, as I find, when a Church-Bigot proves either a furious Ceremony-Monger, or a High-flown Passive-Obedience Man; he is then at best but a Jacobite Protestant; for what little Zeal do we find in our High Churchmen to detect the PLOTS of our English Jacobites, or to prevent the Growth of Popery? When the Bill was brought into the House of Commons to prevent the Growth of Schism, it was mov'd to add these Words, [And to prevent the Growth of Popery] But Mr. Secretary Bromley said, That was Clogging the Bill, for there were Laws enough already against the Papists.**

MADAM,

ART to be *Counter-plotted*. However (MADAM) 'tis our Duty as *Englishmen* and Loyal Subjects, to enquire into the *Causes* of our present deplorable Condition. For to see the *French Masters* AT SEA, (for can they be any other when they may land the *Pretendor* when and where they please, without the least Opposition) and the *English GLORY* thus sunk in the Eyes of all *Christendom*, (by the V——nous T——n of a Corrupt M——y, and the PERSECUTING ZEAL of a *Brib'd House of Anti-Schismatics*) cannot but raise the Curiosity of all true Lovers of their Country, to enquire into the *Source and Cause* of so Important Events; that We who have been able to make so great a *Figure in the World*, even long before the Accession of the *Crown of Scotland* to ours, and to turn the Scale of *Europe* to whatever Side we espoused; and who have so often dyed with our Enemies Blood the *Fields of France*, and acquir'd so many *Lawrels* in that Country, should at this very Moment be OBLIGED to TURN OUR BACKS, (for can our Intreating a conquer'd Enemy to give us better Terms of COMMERCE, prove us *Victors*, or that our Peace with *France* is either *Safe, Lasting, or Honourable*) to that very Enemy whom we have so often beaten, and upon that very *Element* which *Nature* and the possession of some Ages had made properly our own.

MADAM, who could ever have dreamt of this *strange Turn of Affairs*, or that *Eclipse of English Glory*, that is now too visible to be deny'd, had not the T——rous Conduct of the present M——y and P——t fully convinc'd us of the truth of it? But in this *Reflection* I shall always except those Noble Patriots of the House of Lords, that PROTESTED against the Bill to prevent the *Growth of Schism*, and those illustrious WORTHIES of the House of Commons, who abhor'd persecuting their Dissenting Brethren, whom they had formerly call'd *their Fellow-Subjects, and Fellow-Christians*, and to convince the World I am no Bigot to any Party. (but truly love an honest Man however dignify'd or distinguish'd) I shall also except the Lord Chancellor H——rt, Mr. Secretary B——ly, the Attorney General, and the present Bishop of London, as there are not Four better Subjects, or better Statesmen, than

1st Harcourt 3rd Edward Northey
2nd Bromley 4th Dr Compton

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than those *Four Patriots*, to be found amongst all the *Anti-Schismatics* in the British Nation. Madam, I repeat it again [*amongst the Anti-Schismatics or High Churchmen,*] for if I'll do **THE WHIGGS** common Justice, I must say, 'tis as hard a Matter to find a Traytor amongst the *Dissenters and Low Churchmen*, as 'tis to find a Loyal Subject (I mean a *Revolution Protestant*, or true Friend to the House of *Hanover*;) amongst such High Churchmen that (like *Sir William Wildfire*) wou'd fain reconcile the Nonsense of *Indefeasible Hereditary Right*; tho' at the same Time they are **PLOTTING** against the **SUCCESSION** of that **ILLUSTRIOUS** House, whose *Revolution Title* to the British Crown they pretend to defend and support; then allow us (*Gracious Princess*) to enquire into the **CAUSES** of our present Misfortunes, and let us do it with that Impartiality the Subject requires, 'tis but just the Authors and Abettors of *England's Miseries* (tho' they were *Anti-Schismatics of the first Rank*) shou'd be retriev'd from Oblivion, and their Infamy shou'd be handed down to the unhappy Children, that shall have Reason to Curse their *Fathers Villanies and Treasons*. Neither can any Man that is not a Traytor to his Queen and Country, think I do the present *M——y* and *P——t* the least Wrong in these Reflections (or that there is the least *Tincture of Lunacy* in calling **A SPADE A SPADE**) the Loyal and Noble Author of the *Letter to the People of England*, having **PLAINLY** told us, That the present *Ministry* have, contrary to their repeated Declarations, at their first coming into Play, got the *Duke of Marlborough* turn'd out, have broke all our Alliances, have given *Spain and the West-Indies* to the House of *Bourbon*; have revil'd the *Guaranty of the Hanover Succession*; have encourag'd Books in Favour of the *Pretender*: And, in one Word, have done all that in them lay to pave the Way for that **VARLET's Restoration** (which God forbid.) if the present *M——y* have done all this, what have we not to dread? What have we not to fear from them—
CURSED TRAYTORS.

Wildfire

Joyn all these together, our Danger from Abroad, and our Danger at Home, and let any one tell me whether this Nation was ever in a more deplorable Condition? what, in Danger from an irresistible Enemy Abroad, not pers'd, not trusted by any; OUR MINISTRY——— what hope have we? If France attacks us, will our Ministry make new Alliances? If they wou'd, will any one trust us? If any wou'd, will they not be violated again? If they would not be violated, will it not be then TOO LATE to make them?

MADAM, Thus far the Letter to the People of England, by which the Noble Author fairly proves I have no ways wrong'd the present Ministry by calling of them the Tools to the French King; and 'tis as fully prov'd, tha the present Parliament are Tools not only to the present Ministry, but to that Wou'd-be King we call the Pretender: For this Noble Author further assures us,

‘ First, By our blind Zeal we have been the Tools of
 ‘ the present Ministry, to encourage the horrid, arbi-
 ‘ trary and illegal Returns of the Officers at these two
 ‘ last Elections; and of the bare-fac'd Bribery and per-
 ‘ jur'd Votes at those Elections. By these two Villanys
 ‘ we have procur'd the present Ministry such a House of
 ‘ Anti-Schismatics as they lik'd: And by having thus
 ‘ been the Instruments to corrupt and debauch the whole
 ‘ Nation, we have put it out of our Power to hinder the
 ‘ Court from getting a Majority in that House, when-
 ‘ ever they shall have a mind to it.

‘ Secondly, By our blind Zeal we have been the Tools of
 ‘ the present Ministry, to bring an infinite Number of
 ‘ Informations, in the nature of Quo Warranto's, against
 ‘ the Members of most Cities and Burroughs in England,
 ‘ which is still a more effectual way to make the House of
 ‘ Commons only the Queen's Priory-Council, than the other
 ‘ way. For as King Charles II. by new modelling the
 ‘ Corporations, endeavour'd to get a House of Commons
 ‘ entirely depending on his Will and Pleasure, thereby to
 ‘ introduce Popery and Slavery by a Law, he having al-
 ‘ ready a House of Lords to his mind; so the vast Num-
 ‘ ber of Informations, &c. that we have been the Tools of
 ‘ the present Ministry to bring against such Persons as
 ‘ they

‘ they dislike, can have no other end than the modelling
‘ the Cities and Burroughs of *England*, so as to return up to
‘ Parliament the *Tools* of the present Ministry; and when
‘ the Cities and Burroughs are so modell’d, it will then
‘ be out of the power of the *Nation*, to save *itself* from
‘ *Ruin*. (a)

MADAM, to these Seasonable Discoverys that our
Noble Author makes to *the People of England*, he adds,
(by way of *Reproach* to the *Electors* of this present Parlia-
ment) ‘ Consider well, whether by having thus made our
‘ selves the *Tools* of the present Ministry, in these Proceed-
‘ ings, we have not corrupted the very Spring from
‘ which the House of Commons flows: Consider well,
‘ whether we have not by such corrupting, made the
‘ present and all succeeding House of Commons, the
‘ *Tools* of the present and all succeeding Ministries: Con-
‘ sider well, whether by thus having made our House of
‘ Commons *Tools*, we have not put our selves into the
‘ power of our Princes: Consider well, whether by ha-
‘ ving thus put our selves into such a *Preccarious* State, our
‘ *Liberties* can long subsist. ——— For, *Madam*, I’ll
presume to add (to this Correction given to *the People of*
England, by our Noble Author) when the Dissenters and
Low Churchmen are thus insulted, or, as it were *Counter-*
plotted by an *Anti-Schismatick* House of Commons, as they
are the most powerful *Tools* the Popish Pretender can
work with, so (*except we are sav’d by a Miracle*) they are
most likely to finish that ART OF RESTORING which
O———— and B———— have begun with such great

(a) These Jacobite Plots are largely prov’d in those Four Books
lately publish’d, intituled,

I. *The Court-Spy; or, A Detektion of secret, odd, and uncommon*
Transactions in Church and State.

II. *Neck or Nothing: In a Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord*
—————: Being a Supplement to the Short History of the
Parliament.

III. *Whig-Loyalty; or, An Humble Address to her Majesty, by Mr.*
John Dunton, Author of the Court-Spy; in which he offers to appear and
prove all his Discoverys.

IV. *The Impeachment; or, Great-Britain’s Charge against the*
Present Ministry.

Success,

1 *Suppl of Dunton*
2 *P. Holmbrook &*

Success, that the *real Jacobite Plots* that the Reverend Mr. *William Clark* and Mr. *John Dunton* have depos'd upon Oath, are all damn'd for a *Piece of Madness*, or at best, for a *Whiggish Plot*, to Blacken our *Loyal, Chaste, and Innocent Ministry*. And which further shews what *Restoration Plot* is now hatching in *T. B——gs* and at *Wh—— H——*, the 'Assassination of your Majesty discover'd at *Dover*, hath been hush'd up, tho' the Person discovering the same, and his Depositions, were sent up to one of the Secretaries of State.

MADAM, I cou'd inlarge in these STATE SECRETS, but *the Devices, Methods, and corrupt Practises* which THE ANTI-SCHISMATICKS have us'd, for the Promotion of their JACOBITE SCHEME, to introduce *the Pretender*, are too many to be here detected, but (as I am told by a *Person of Honour*) will be all discover'd in a Treatise now preparing for the Press intituled, *K——g H——ly, or the Second Part of Neck or Nothing, containing the Secret History of the P——t R——n since the change of the M——y, the whole Discoveries made by the same Author who writ the first Part of Neck or Nothing, and will compleat that Essay*: I shall therefore, in this *Secret History of the Anti-Schismatics*, only take Notice of such *State-Intrigues* as prove them Traytors to their Queen and Country: For the *Anti-Schismatics* are as great *Plotters*, as those the P——t call *Schismatics*, tho' they PLOT for different Reasons; the first PLOT to fix themselves in their High Places, and to ruin their Native Country, and the last PLOT (if it been't too late) to save it from *the Pretender, Popery and Slavery*, and that total Subversion of *English Liberties* that *O—— and B——* have been so long Contriving, and which is now call'd *The Art of Restoring*. I shall therefore only take Notice of such PLOTS of our *Anti-Schismatics* as endanger the present Constitution in Church and State; and here my DETECTION will only expose such Pernicious Secrets as *aspiring Courtiers, and French Papists* jointly practis'd with our *High Churchmen and English Jacobites*, tho' for different Ends of their own, and such as we have still Reason to beware of.

And

And here, MADAM, I think it my Duty to inform your Majesty (and that in the Words of that great Statesman from whom I receiv'd the Intelligence) ' That England within these few Years has been amus'd with three different Plots, and to be carried on by three different Parties, but at the bottom we have had but one Plot, and that carried on and manag'd but by two Parties, in constant Friendship with one another. We first of all saw a Popish one laid open, and discover'd with as demonstrative Clearness as such Hellish Works of Darknes could admit of. The King seem'd, and the Parliament and whole Nation did really believe the Reality of this Plot. But within a little time, these two unhappy Parties, the Papists and the high-flown Passive-Obedience-Men, (both equally the Cause of all our Woes) join'd Hand in Hand to turn this Popish Plot into Ridicule; and by a Complication of Subornations, Intrigues, and Perjuries, they at last got it hiss'd out of doors.

Then it was the Pulpits began to ring with Outcry against those Fanatick Plotters, (as the Papists and Anti-Schismatics often call'd them in Derision) who had the Sauciness to endeavour the Exclusion of the then Duke of York from the Crown, as the only means to save England from a Ruin that threaten'd her. There was nothing at that time to be heard, in the most of our Churches, but the Divine Right of Succession; the singular Loyalty of the Duke to his Brother; and the Horridness of the Attempt to set so pious, so generous, so well-natur'd a Prince beside the Throne: Yea, it was become a kind of Treason to dare to say, he was a Papist.

It was not enough, the Popish Plot should be hiss'd off the Stage; our two loving Parties employ'd their utmost Diligence to sham the World with a WHIG-PLOT, (for so they christen'd it, and what a horrid Conspiracy this Plot was, is detected in the following Narrative) as the only proper Method to revenge themselves upon the wise and more moderate part of the Nation, that had been more forward than others in the Discovery of the Popish one. How this sham PROTESTANT PLOT was manag'd, and what Sacrifices were offer'd up to the

' Revenge of an implacable Prince, the barbarous Mur-
 ' der of the Earl of *Essex*, with the illegal Executions of
 ' the Lord *Pass*!, *Algernon Sidney*, the Lady *Lisle*, Al-
 ' derman *Cornish*, Mrs. *Gaunt*, and many others, do speak
 ' out, more than Words can.

' This Whig Plot was echo'd in the Pulpits with all the
 ' villanous Names Hell could invent; and to be a *Whig*,
 ' was then a thousand times worse than to be a *Mahome-*
 ' *tan*. Every little Creature that had got into a Pulpit
 ' by the Beneficence of a Patron, perhaps as silly as him-
 ' self, thought he could not sufficiently deserve his Ten or
 ' Twelve Pounds a Year, unless he belch'd out once a
 ' Sunday all the Stench he possibly could against the poor
 ' Whigs; and indeed the so doing was the properest way
 ' to come to Preferment. Now under the Name of *Whig*,
 ' they comprehended then, as well as now, not only the
 ' *Schismatics* (as they call the Dissenters) but all those of
 ' the Clergy or Laicks that came not up to that mad
 ' Height of theirs, in point of *Ceremonies*, *Passive-Obedience*,
 ' *Divine Right of Succession*, and the like.

' King *Charles* being hurried off the Stage, God knows
 ' how, the Duke of *York* succeeds, with the loud Accla-
 ' mations of the two Parties I have named, and with the
 ' submissive Silence of the rest of the Nation. Our high-
 ' flown Churchmen shrove which of them understood
 ' the Art of Flattery best, in their Addresses to K. *James*:
 ' And every 30th of *January* was solemniz'd with peals of
 ' *Ordnance* from the Pulpits against the poor Whigs, for
 ' not only taking away the Life of the Father, but PLOT-
 ' TING to exclude the best and the most pious Prince in
 ' the World, his Son, from the Succession, by that ac-
 ' cursed *Bill of Exclusion*. Indeed this Anniversary-Day
 ' had something in it like the *Baccanalia* of *Rome*, where-
 ' in Slaves and Servants might safely insult and hector
 ' their Masters: And it often fell out, that a *silly Fellow*,
 ' who by Importunity, and perhaps worse Means, had
 ' gotten into a Living, durst on this general Madding-
 ' Day, reproach to his Face his Patron that gave him
 ' Bread, merely because he was either a Whig, or at least
 ' would not bellow out Reproaches against the Dissen-
 ' ters,

ters, and damn 'em for a Parcel of *Schismatics* and *Rebels*.

But alas! poor King *James* soon lost the kindness of these his former *Votaries*: For he who had been told every Day, *He might do what he pleas'd, and was accountable to none but God*; thought he might safely venture to make tryal of the *Passive-Obedience* of them that told him so. Here he was mightily mistaken: For (alas!) all this *High-Church Loyalty* of our *Anti-Schismatics* was no better than a *Sacheverlites Plot* to secure the best *Preferments* in *Church and State*. The Devil might much more justly say of these *Passive-Obedience Gentlemen*, in Relation to King *James*, than of *Job* of old, in Relation to God Almighty; *Do they serve thee for nought? Hast thou not made a Hedge about them, and about their House, and about all that ever they have, on every side? But put forth thine Hand now, and touch all that they have, and they will curse thee to thy Face.* And as long as King *James* was carelling them, and giving them not only good Words, but good Deeds, especially a *belov'd Potter* to trample on the *Dissenters*, then it was, *He was the best King in the World*: But whenever his Jesuited Counsellors had advis'd him to infringe in the least, these Mens Privileges, then their Complaints of King *James* were heard further off than *England*, and the very Nations abroad were deafen'd with the Noise of their trifling Afflictions, and indeed more they were not, if compar'd with what other People met with from that Prince's Ministers.

Then was there nothing heard of among these Gentlemen; but how far the King had broken his Oath to maintain the *Church of England*, and how far he had invaded their *Liberties and Privileges*, but especially in allowing a *Toleration* to the *Dissenters*: For a *Toleration* to *Papists* alone, they would easily have swallowed; but that the *Dissenters* (whom in their Pulpits they had branded for *Schismatics and Rebels*, and had a thousand Times over call'd worse than the *Papists*) should be free from their Clutches, and should enjoy a perfect

perfect Freedom from their Censures, was a Thing intollerable to them. Their secret Murmurings broke out at length into open Complaints : And in fine, King *William*, then Prince of *Orange*, could get no rest from their Importunities ; but come over he must, and settle Things on a sure Bottom ; and it was these *Passive Gentlemen* (or *Revolution Plotters*) who were most active in inviting him over to *England*.

The Prince from a Generous Principle of Zeal for the Protestant Religion, which was indeed by this Time on the brink of Ruin, and which none had hasten'd more forward than our *high-flown Passive-Obedience Men* ; he undertook an *Enterprize* of the greatest *Consequence* that this Age has seen, and ventur'd his *All*, to retrieve *Three Nations* from a fate that impended over them. The best and soberest Part of the *Nation*, rose for his Majesty upon his Landing, and who prov'd more forward than some of our *Passive-obedience Men* themselves, at that Time ? Not only they declar'd for him, not only address'd they King *James* for a Parliament in Order to *Pinion Him*, which is all one on the Matter as to *dethrone Him* ; but likewise upon that King's going away, they PLOT with the rest of the *Peers and Members of Parliament*, and joyntly invite the *Prince* to take upon him the *Government*, and to exercise a *Power* that wanted nothing of a *King*, but the *Name*.

One would have thought that *Party*, and the *Gentleman* at *Lambeth*, their *Head*, had been very cordial in bringing about this *Revolution*, since they went as far as any of their *Neighbours* at first, in all the Steps of it. But alas, we were Mistaken, these *Anti-Schismatics* had other Aims than we knew of. They concurr'd in the inviting the Prince of *Orange* over to *England* ; in declaring for him after he came : And in fine, in addressing him to take upon him the *Government* in so difficult a *Juncture* ; but this was all in Order to make use of the Prince of *Orange's Name*, *Power and Interest*, to bring about the Redress of their trifling *Grievances*. That *Prince* they were resolv'd

to make but a Tool, of for their little Self-Ends, whereof one was the utter abasing of the poor Dissenters, and laying them at their Mercy, I confess I cannot but laugh at the insupportable Folly of these unthinking Creatures, that could imagine the Prince of Orange who made so great a Figure in Europe, and whose presence was of so great Necessity on the Continent, could be impos'd upon to come over to England in the Heart of Winter, amidst a thousand Dangers, and at a vast Charge, and that meerly to fasten, forsooth, a tottering Pillar or Two in the Cathedral of Canterbury, or the Chappel of Lambeth. That Illustrious Prince was born for greater Glories than these; and those poor Monkish Plotters are not able to fathom the Genie of a Heroe.

No Reward but that of the Crown was sufficient for the mighty Favour the Prince had done us, in delivering us from Popery and Slavery: And there was indeed no other Means left, to assure us of Safety, in so perplexing an Event, as that of King James's going away, and the Consequences that did attend it. But to set the Crown upon the Head of a Prince, who being brought up in a Foreign Church, they suppos'd would prove no blind Bigot to Theirs, was a Thing our High-Priest and the rest of the Gang could not bear. A Popish Prince, so be it he would grant them a High-Hand over the Protestant Dissenters, they would rather trust on the Throne, than a Protestant one, who they knew would never Consent to such Practices.

MADAM, thus far that NOBLE PERSON, from whom I receiv'd these Discoveries, that compose the Secret History of the Anti-Schismatics, for the last Thirty Years, and tho' it appears by these STATE-INTRIGUES that 'tis not the Plotting Dissenters, but aspiring Courtiers, High-Churchmen, and English Jacobites that have been the Traytors to QUEEN ANNE (as well as to her ROYAL UNCLE AND FATHER) yet seeing our Protestant Dissenters are all CONDEMN'D, (tho' not yet hang'd and quarter'd) for Schismatics,
like

like a right Turncoat Priest, I intend to rail at the Dissenters, whose PLOTS I have left, that those High Churchmen, whose Favour I court (by my Recantation) may believe me the more Sincere, and if either MY QUERIES to our *English Schismatics* (by which I mean the HOT-HEADS of any Party) or my *Vindication of the Act to prevent the Growth of Schism*, be but furious enough to convince the WHIGGS I am a true Convert to High Church, I shall hope my *Satyr on the Dissenter's Plots* will pass for my REAL THOUGHTS.

This, MADAM, is what I attempt in the following *Narrative*, which I entitle THE CONVENTICLE, 'tis a *Detection of the Dissenter's Plots*, from which both Church and State is now in Danger, if we may believe that High-Church Addresser Sir W—— W—— (who to shew his Abhorrence of SCHISM, and Resolution to prevent its GROWTH) formerly suckt the Innocent Blood of that *Dissenting and Glorious Martyr, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaunt*, and of late perswaded the *Tory-Party of the City of London*, to thank your Majesty for giving your ready Assent to the *Bill for preventing the Growth of Schism*, tho' this *Persecuting and Bloody Ald——n* can't but know the passing that PIOUS BILL is so far from being a *Security* (as the *London Address* calls it) to the Churches of England and Ireland as by Law established, that there's ne're A CONSCIENTIOUS DISSENTER in your Majesty's Realms, but thinks the Passing the *Schism Bill* to be taking away his *Birth-Right, Religion and Liberties*, as well as an Infringement of that INVIO-LABLE TOLERATION allow'd them by Law, and often confirm'd by your Majesty's *Royal Promise*; and for that Reason all your Majesty's *Dissenting Subjects*, call the *Schism Act* a downright *Persecution*, and if to give such a cruel Name to any PIOUS ACT of your Majesty (for that must needs be a PIOUS ACT that makes *Orthodox Christians of meer Schismatics*) en't a PLOT against the present Constitution in Church and State, there was no FANATICK PLOT in —— the *Meal-Tub* —— Lord *Russel's Bill of Exclusion* —— the *burning D' Aumont's House in Ormond-Street* —— and in the late *Whiggish Attempts*

Attempt to murder your Majesty's Illustrious Favourite, by Band-Boxes, Ink-Horns, and the Lord knows what ——— All which CONSPIRACIES, the Sachevelite, or Jacobite, Churchmen are ready to swear to be Matter of Fact, and have often declar'd them to be *Damn'd Presbyterian Plots*: So that if a High Churchman (who was once a PLOTTER amongst the Dissenters) may be believ'd, 'tis as natural to a Loyal Dissenter to Plot, as it is to Breathe. I own, MADAM, it seems an incredible Paradox that Dissenters should be Loyal, and yet Plotters, and always continue to be so: But 'tis what I have largely prov'd in that Narrative of their NEW PLOT, which I have detected in the following Sheets. Or if any incredulous Tory (for I can't think they are *all* Mad) should think the Dissenters to be so Loyal and Innocent, as not to be engag'd in a NEW PLOT against your Majesty's Person and Government, let them ponder the Words of the *Restoring Doctor*, (I mean Dr. Bisse, for calling the bloody and debauch'd Reign of K. Charles II. the *Blessed Restoration* twenty times in the same Sermon,) who tells the Parliament, (a) 'That the Incendiarys are already running to and fro with Torches in their Hands.' By which, the pious and charitable Doctor (to shew his Flaming Zeal for the Church, or perhaps his Fears that the Loyal O———— and Chaste B———— should be both *De-Witted* for their *Notable Conduct* in Securing the Protestant Succession in the Illustrious House of *Hanover*.) only means the Dissenters: But your Majesty having often assur'd the Dissenters of your Royal Protection, it does suppose them a Loyal, Innocent, and Peaceable People; and therefore the Whigs will be apt to say, To prove the Dissenters *Plotters*, when they are not only honour'd with your Majesty's good Opinion; but are promis'd the Royal Favour, is to *asperse* the Wisdom and Justice of your Majesty's Reign; and is such *Disloyalty*, as can scarce be distinguisht from *Real plotting* against the Crown. But (MADAM) tho' 'tis a hard Matter to walk evenly on the Borders and

(a) In his Restoration-Sermon before the Honourable House of Commons, May 29. 1714.

very Ridge of a Subject, whose next Step is *Treason*, (or may be made so by an *Inuendo*) yet *there's no Law will hang a Man for speaking the Truth*; and if Capt. Tutchin was pardon'd for daring to petition for the *Favour* (as he express'd it) of being hang'd, I hope my loyal Intention in discovering the *Dissenting Plotters*, and their *Places of Meeting*, will meet with the like Treatment; and I have yet the greater hopes of your Majesty's Pardon, as I am a *Clergyman's Son of the Church of England*; a Church your Majesty has so remarkably favour'd, and are such a *Glorious Defender* of. However, we live in a Reign where *Truth does not pass for Treason*; and should I write the most bitter *Invectives* against the *Dissenters*, (or even against those *pretended* Loyalists the *Anti-Schismatics*) if I assert nothing but *Truth*, *Truth* alone will protect me. And for that Reason, I assure your Majesty, that upon *the least Notice from Court*, I'll appear in Person, to prove all I have here depos'd.

MADAM, I shall only add, I have here set the *Dissenters Plots* in a new Light; and found such (*invisible*) Faults in their *Conduct*, as no Man ever saw but my self; neither have the most secret *Vices* and *Real Plots* of our *Anti-Schismatics* escap'd my Notice. But if my Narrative has but Merit enough to obtain your Majesty's Pardon, 'tis all I can hope for; to deserve the Honour of a Smile from so *Illustrious* a Patron, would be as much as could be expected by a *Sw—ft*, *Hig—ns*, *B—ford*, *W—ton*, or *S—rell*, who have been huzza'd, pardon'd, and the last of 'em *advanc'd* (your Majesty having not only been assur'd of their *Innocence*, but that their *Doctrine of Indefeasible Hereditary Right* was a proof of their Loyalty to your Person and Government) for Crimes, for which much *honest* Men have been hang'd; as is largely prov'd by a *Reverend dissenting Plotter*, in his late most ingenious Discourse, intituled, *THE UNDOUBTED HEIR, AND HE MUST REIGN.*

I might proceed in *The Secret History of those Anti-Schismatics* whose *High-Church Loyalty* I have here detected, that your Majesty might see what sort of *Loyalists* and *Christians* they are, who are so zealous to *COUNTER-PLOT*
the

The Secret History of the Anti-Schismatics. 27

the Dissenters, and to prove 'em Schismatics; but I have presum'd too far already. Then (MADAM) forgive the TREASON of this Conspirator, who tho' he looks into all the CONVENTICLES in *Great-Britain*, to prove he was *Once a Plotter*, yet is he *Now*, with all possible Loyalty,

M A D A M,

Your Majesty's most Dutiful,

And most Obedient Subject,

PHILARET.

AN APOLOGY for the great Encomiums given to *Queen Anne*, in the foregoing Secret History of the Anti-Schismatics; being the true and undisguis'd Character of that Royal Anti-Schismatick, to whom the Narrative of the Dissenters NEW PLOT was address'd, a Fortnight before her Death.

R E A D E R,

THE foregoing Essay, intituled, *The Secret History of the Anti-Schismatics*, being printed a Fortnight before the Death of her late Majesty *Q. Anne*, 'tis hop'd the Reader will excuse that great Encomium that is given to her in that *History*; for tho' O——— and B——— have been venturing Neck or Nothing ever since the Change of the Ministry, (and tho' the Author of *Neck or Nothing* has also ventured his Life, and really lost his Liberty) for daring to set the V———ous Plots of those *Two Anti-Schismatics* in a true Light; yet it being a sort of *Treason* to give the true Character of our Sovereign Lady in her Life-time, I was forc'd to flatter *Queen Anne* so much in the foregoing *History*, as to call *black, white*. I own, I am asham'd of this great Cowardice, for (as a true *Briton*) I ought neither to *dissemble* or *flatter*, were it to save

m' *Life*; neither did I ever do so to *O* — or *B* — or the best Friend I ever had: But I consider'd *Q. Anne* as my Lawful Prince, and that there was a great Respect due to a Crown'd Head, (tho' the Person that wore it were a *Bigot*, a *Weather-cock*, a *Breaker of solemn Promises*, or even a *Persecutor*) and for that Reason, where I could not praise *Queen Anne* for any Action since she follow'd the Advice of a *Corrupt and Frenchify'd Ministry*, (for I shall ever do her the Justice to say, *The first eight Years of her Reign was so Bright and Glorious, that she almost equal'd the Immortal William*) I thought it my Duty to expose her Conduct (by way of *Irony*) that is, Where I call her *Pious, Mild, and Gracious*, I really mean *Superstitious, Cruel, and much inclin'd to Persecution*, (of which her passing the *Schism-Bill* is a late and notorious Instance) and so in many other Cases, my *Encomiums* upon *Queen Anne* must be still taken in a contrary Sence; for like the rest of the *St* — *rts*, she scarce ever was in *Reality*, what she seem'd to be in *Appearance*, (I mean, since she chang'd her Faithful and Loyal Ministry, for Two *First-Rate V* — *ns* that betray'd their Queen, and sold their Country) of which (I am told) *The Second Part of Neck or Nothing* will give many surprizing Instances; tho' I think none can be more astonishing than that Discovery *The First Part of Neck or Nothing* gives us in these Words, *viz.* 'But my next
' Discovery (says the *Neck-Author*) concerning *Dunkirk*,
' will surprize ye more; for what would you think if the
' Letter that betray'd the late King's Design upon *Dun-*
' *kirk*, was written by *Queen Anne* (when Princess of
' *Denmark*) to the *French King*; tho' the Parties you
' know, that bore the Blame, took it on them (tho' both
' Innocent and Ignorant of it, till it was done to save
' her Life and Dignity?) As odd as this may seem to
' the World, 'tis a certain Truth; and the late King's Re-
' conciliation with, and Promotion of the Duke of *Marl-*
' *borough* before his Death, was owing to that Letter's
' being return'd from *France*, into the King's Hand, by a
' *SPT* in the *French Cabinet*. This you may depend upon,
' for I have it from good Hands: then judge the rest.' —
Thus far the Author of *Neck or Nothing*; by which you
see

See what a Faithful and Generous Friend the Duke of *Marlborough* always was, both to *England* and to his *Royal Mistress*; and what ungrateful Returns they both made for his Matchless Services, is too well known to need a Repetition in this *Apology*. However, as her *Royal Majesty* is now transform'd into common Clay, I think the publishing of these *Secrets*, is a Duty I owe to my Native Country, and may deserve the serious Consideration of all her *Anti-Schismatick Subjects* (but more especially *Hermolaëtus* and *Harry Gambal*, (a) who in the short Space of Four Years, have gone so far to eclipse her former Glories, that (if we are true *Englishmen*, and sincere Protestants) we can't but rejoice that the Death of *Queen Anne* has concluded the whole Race of the *Stuarts*; for had not Heaven (in great Mercy to this Nation) put an end to that Persecution she had just form'd, by her passing the *Schism-Bill*, we had soon been Subjects to *France* and *Rome*, and most think, to the sham Pretender: For 'tis reported, since her Majesty's Death, that in searching her *Royal Closet*, there was found in it, *A private League between the King of France, the King of Spain, the King of Sicily, and the Queen of Great-Britain; against Holland, Prussia, Germany, and other Protestant Princes.* 'Tis also Whis- per'd, that there was found in the *Queen's Closet*, *The Hereditary Folio*, with several Leafs turn'd down, where 'tis said, *the Crown of Great-Britain may be given by Will.* If this News from Court be true, and that O ——— and B ——— begin to Impeach one another (as 'tis affirm'd they do) these Discoveries fully prove, how Zealous and Politick they both were to *Restore the Pretender*, and how near *Great-Britain* was brought, to utter Destruction (by her Majesty's following their *Jacobite Counsels*) had not her sudden Death, very seasonably, as well as most miracu- lously, prevented it.

Then **NO WONDER** that *Queen Anne* turn'd out a Faithful Ministry that were known Enemies to *France* and

(a) *Whose Secret History the Reader will find in those two Books, intituled, Neck or Nothing and The Impeachment of the Present Ministry.*

the Pretender, to put those in their Places that were always suspected to be Friends to both.—— That she advanc'd that Tool of the Jacobite Party (Dr. Sa——rel) to a Living of 800l. per Ann. after he had declar'd the late Glorious Revolution a damnable Rebellion, drunk the Pretender's Health on his bare Knees, and call'd the Hanover Succession, a cursed Legacy—— That she approv'd of the Jacobite Conduct of the Lord C——lour, Ph——ps, after the Irish Parliament had voted him a Publick Incendiary, and great Encourager of the Papists and Jacobites in that Kingdom—— That she prorogu'd the best Parliament that ever sat in Ireland, for their Impeaching these State Criminals—— That she pass'd the Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism, as 'twas to persecute such as were utter Enemies to a separate Peace with France, and those other Jacobite Measures that O—— and B—— had engag'd her in—— That she put none but Jacobites and High Churchmen in Places of Trust or Profit—— That she exchange'd the Whiggish Lieutenancy of London for C——s, W——thers, and such other Anti-Schismatics, that were always Thought to be in the Pretender's Plot—— That in her late Speeches from the Throne, she call'd the sham Prince of Wales [That Person] and did not call him the Pretender, as formerly—— That tho' the House of Lords, in their Address, shew'd several weighty Reasons, why her Majesty shou'd publish a Proclamation to take the Pretender, that she gave this Answer, ' That she saw no Occasion to Publish such a Proclamation. Reader, (I say it again) who ever considers these STATE INTREAGUES of O—— and B—— (as well as those Discoveries that have been made in her Majesty's Closet since her Death) can NEVER WONDER at this Jacobite Conduct of Queen Anne, since the Change of the Ministry: For 'tis well known, the Pretender's Friends thought her so much in his Interest, that during the last Four Years of her Reign, this was

The Jacobite HEALTH. |

HERE'S a Health to the Woman,
(If you are a true Man)

Who will drink of THIS LIQUOR with any,
And of such chearing Stuff,
May she still have enough,
For that's the Right Way to please N——y.

2.

Then whilst she is Boozy,
Poor Whiggs! We will Nooze ye,
With all the SCHISMATICAL Crew;
Who by hindring a Pax,
And other damn'd Acts,
Wou'd bubble St. GEORGE of his Due.

Reader, I don't insert this *Jacobite Health* to reflect on our Royal Anne, as she wore a Crown (by the Laws Humane and Divine, and by the Voice of the People) for I own Queen Anne in herself, was an excellent Christian, and a Glorious Queen, and had continu'd so to the Day of her Death, had her pious Husband (Prince George) out-liv'd her; but alas! alas! our Royal Mother, (tho' her constant Motto was *Semper Eadem*) yet she was but a fallible Woman, as appear'd by her changing a Glorious Ministry to follow the Advice of a Lewd S——ry and a JANUS T——r that (like Right *Anti-Schismatics*) sold their Country, to enrich their Family: For it has been affirm'd by a Reverend Gentleman of great Note, that Robin H——ly had never been L——d H—— T——r had he not promis'd Queen Anne (what the truly Loyal G——phin refus'd) to stand the Pretender's Friend, and this Secret Transaction past at the same Time she pretended to have the Hanover Family so near at Heart, which notorious Hypocrisy of Queen Anne may convince her Subjects that her new Ministry had made her a RIGHT STUART (I mean as false as her Uncle Charles) it also shews, what a great Happiness her SUDDEN DEATH has been, to the Protestants of Great Britain, as it has deliver'd 'em from the Pretender, Popery and Slavery: I own 'tis not Generous, nor indeed Christian, to insult a Person incapable of defending himself; and we ought to be particularly careful how we pass Judgment on the Actions of Princes whilst they Live, for our own Safety, and the Quiet of the World, and when dead, because they are then gone to that BEING who only knows the Secrets of all Hearts, 'tis best (say the Temporizers) in each Case to be silent, especially for
Persons

Persons so far remov'd from a near View of their Transactions,
 we know, perhaps, or hear what is done, but knew little or
 nothing of the Motives: Our Laws I think establish it as a
 Fundamental Maxim, that Kings can do no Ill, and if
 that were true, (I own) 'twas in the late Queen: For
 had she despis'd a separate Peace, and continu'd her first
 Ministry, she had liv'd and dy'd the brightest Prince
 upon Earth; but tho' her late Majesty really was a
 Great and Glorious Queen for, the whole Time she fol-
 low'd the good Advice of the Victorious Marlborough,
 the just Godolphin, and the faithful Sunderland: Yet as
 her new Ministry made her act the Reverse of all her
 FORMER GLORIES, I hope I may be allow'd to speak
 these known Truths with Plainness, not only as they'll set
 our new Protestant King in the better Light, but as 'tis
 well known, I ever call'd a Spade a Spade, (or if ever I
 grow so MAD as to flatter, I desire my Friends wou'd
 send me to Bedlam) for however some Men's unusual Joy
 or Mourning Apparel (for they are Synonimous Terms
 when a Stuart dyes) may smooth over that ill Con-
 duct we saw in her, yet I shall ever think it my Ho-
 nous and Duty to speak the Truth (and that PLAINLY
 and BLUNTLY) for to give Princes a good Word,
 when their Hypocritical Reign has convinc'd their Sub-
 jects they deserv'd a bad one, is in some Sort to write
 a Panegyrick upon Falshood, Bigotry and Persecution yet
 I am so greatly in Love with Monarchy, that I must say,
 had not Queen Anne been so furiously inclin'd to High-
 Church, that is, had she not been deceiv'd and betray'd
 by those Two Anti-Schismatics O—— and B—— she
 wou'd have put thro' all the rest of her Predecessors;
 but alas, the best of Princes, when corrupted (by ill Mi-
 nisters) prove the worst, for it can't be deny'd, but Queen
 Ann's passing the Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism,
 was violating the Toleration Act, and depriving her
 Dissenting Subjects of that EDUCATION they think
 most agreeable to the Word of God; so that it can't
 be deny'd, but Queen Anne (after Eight Years Glorious
 Reign) dy'd a Persecutor; for tho' our Anti-Schismatics
 gild o'er their Persecuting Bill with this Orthodox Title

A Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism; yet it will really prove A Bill to prevent the Growth of Piety, Learning, and Good Manners, or (in plainer English) tho' Queen Anne often declar'd she would maintain the Act of Toleration inviolable, yet she gave her ready Assent (as our Bloody Alderman (a) calls it) to the Bill to prevent the Growth of Schism; tho' she could not but know, that 'twas to persecute her Dissenting Subjects, for doing what they thought their Duty to God, and their Children; and therefore some serious People are of Opinion, that Queen Anne's signing the Schism-Bill, provok'd Heaven to snatch her suddenly out of the World, for the Gout or Apoplex hastily storm'd her Brain, and in a few Hours, put an end to her signing any more persecuting Acts, that very Day the Act to prevent the Growth of Schism was to take place, which it now does, and will be furiously executed by Gambal, Smut, Wildfire, (b) and those other Anti-Schismatics that were zealous to have it enacted, without the least Amendment or Alteration. But these High-Church Persecutors will do well to consider what they have done, in calling down Fire from Heaven to burn their Dissenting Brethren; for as a dreadful Warning to all Persecutors, (but more especially to such Princes that have no Regard to a solemn Promise made to their loyal Subjects) Queen Anne was not permitted by Righteous Heaven, to live one Day to see her Persecuting Act put in Execution; for 'tis worth observing, ' That as she ' often promis'd to maintain the Act of Toleration inviolable, ' so she did, for the time she liv'd, and not a Day longer; for ' the Act to prevent the Growth of Schism commenc'd from the ' same Day she died: And consequently, tho' Queen Anne could not live till she had suppress'd all the Schismatics, and wholly repeal'd the Act of Toleration; yet (as the Schism-Act was sign'd with her own Hand) She may be said to Persecute even in the Grave, till such time as our

(a) Sir W—— W——.

(b) See the true Character of these Three Anti-Schismatics, in an Essay, lately publish'd, intituled, The Ænignatical Court, or a Key to the High-German Doctor.

Protestant King (a) shall repeal those *Two Accursed Acts*,
The Act to prevent Occasional Conformity ; and the Act to pre-
vent the Growth of Schism. So that it appears by that [*true*
and undisguis'd] *Character* that I have here given of our
Royal Anti-Schismatick, that as she eclips'd all the Glory
of the *First Eight Years of her Reign*, — *By changing a*
Faithful Ministry, to be govern'd by Traytors — — *By making*
a Treacherous Peace with France — — *And by passing a Perse-*
cuting Bill — So she has liv'd (ever since the Change of the
Ministry) *as much undesir'd, as she has died unlamented.* And
therefore, I don't wonder that a Poor Old Woman upon
Tower-Hill, seeing a crowd of People rejoicing that the
Queen was dead, burst out into Tears, saying, ' I can't
' but cry and lament, not that the Queen is Dead, (for
' she was the best Friend the Pretender had) but that her
' Majesty, after twelve Years Reign, should so lose the
' Affection of all her Subjects, as not one Tear has been
' shed for her.' Which I believe was true ; for when
our Rightful and Glorious King, (b) was Proclaim'd
at the *Royal-Exchange*, I never saw such a great and gene-
ral Rejoicing in my whole Life. Yet, as a *Nobler Act of*
Justice is due to the Dead, than those that are still living,
I think myself obliged to acquaint the World, that her
late Majesty was so truly sensible of the wrong Steps she had ta-
ken, by following the Advice of a Corrupt and Frenchify'd Mi-
nistry, that she often call'd for her FAITHFUL MARLBOROUGH
on her Death-Bed, and would fain have seen him
before she died, (*for tho Princes may live Enemies to their*
best Subjects, they dare not die so) ! And this further ap-
pears, by that excellent Change Queen *Anne* made in the
Ministry a few Hours before her Death ; but is more
especially seen in the Instance of that Illustrious Patriot
John Duke of Shrewsbury, who (by her Majesty's own
Appointment, as well as to the great Satisfaction of all
true Friends to the *House of Hanover*) is now *Lord High*
Treasurer of Great-Britain ; and may he so continue (if not
advanc'd to a higher Post) to the end of his Life : For,

(a) King George.

(b) King George.

as Mr. Duntan justly observes, (a) ' To do the Duke of
' *Shrewsbury* Justice, tho' he was sent Ambassador-Ex-
' traordinary to *France*, he was above the Temptation of
' *Louis-d'Ors*, and had too great a Share in the *Glorious*
' *Revolution* by King *William*, ever to have a Hand in
' bringing in a *sham Prince*, that has no other Pretence to
' the Crown, but by calling our *Glorious Deliverer* from
Popery and *Slavery*, a meer *Usurper*, which was never yet
done by any *Dissenter* or *Low Churchman*, but only by our
Anti-Schismatics, (as I have largely prov'd in the *Secret*
History I gave of 'em, and in this *Apology*). And there-
fore having now given the true and undisguis'd Charac-
ter of our *Royal Anti-Schismatick*, and set all the *Tory-*
Plotters in a true Light, I'll next enquire, *What sort of*
Monsters those *WHIGS* are, that in most of our late *Ad-*
dresses are call'd *Republicans*, *Plotters*, *SCHISMA-*
TICKS?

And this *Query* is fully answer'd in the following *Essay*,
intituled, *The Conventicle ; or, A Narrative of the Dissen-*
ters New Plot.

(a) *In his Essay, intituled, Neck or Nothing ; for which*
he has been long a Sufferer, for daring to detect such Jacobite-
Plots as were then hatching at Bar-le-Duc.

The Conventicle :
 OR, A
NARRATIVE
 OF THE
Dissenters New PLOT, &c.

R E A D E R,

WE are told by a very Ingenious Author, (a) That 'tis Base and Impertinent for Perfecting Magistrates to Brand any private Meetings with the Name of CONVENTICLES; (as the first Christian Assemblies were opprobiously call'd by the Heathens) but seeing my Design in publishing this Narrative of the Dissenters new Plot, is rather to do Justice to the Dissenters, by MY DISCOVERIES, than to wrong 'em with a false Charge, I hope I may, without giving Offence to such as go to separate Meetings, call these Discoveries the CONVENTICLE.

I have been one of the Conspirators in the Dissenters New Plot (so far as 'tis A PLOT against the present Constitution in Church and State) and am ready to depose upon Oath before his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, all the Discoveries I shall make concerning it; but

(a) In his Book Intituled, *The Remedy worse than the Disease, or Reasons against Passing the Bill for preventing the Growth of Schism.*

tho' I resolve to BLACKEN the Dissenters with all the Spite and Fury of a High-Flyer, yet having been as far engag'd in the Whigg-Plot I shall charge them with, as any Dissenter whatever, I shall still so far vindicate my old Practice, as to think my Brother Conspirators may deserve (at least) Justice from me, which they cou'd not have if I did not inform the World that
' The Managers of Persecuting Principles have very
' pretty Ways with them to cover and gild over
' the most effectual Measures of destroying the Dissenters
' with fair Pretences of preserving them, perhaps
' the taking away the Schools and Academies of the
' Dissenters (under a Pretence of their being Schisma-
' ticks) is done the better to preserve the Toleration
' Inviolable.

We find in the first Section of the last *Occasional Bill*, the enacting Clauses thus introduc'd: ' Now, for
' the better Securing the said Church, and quieting the
' Minds of her Majesty's Protestant and Dissenting Sub-
' jects, and rendering them Secure in the Exercise of their
' Religious Worship,

BE IT ENACTED,

I do not say (to use the Words of one of the *Plotters* (a)
' That the Bill following those Words did abridge the
' said Dissenters of any of their Liberties, in the Exer-
' cise of their Religious Worship; but this I will say,
' that if the Dissenters were so abridg'd by that Act,
' then joyning the Words together, it will follow,
' That their said Liberties were so abridg'd the better to quiet
' their Minds, and for the securing them in the Exercise
' of their Religious Worship, and perhaps, if Laws
' are hereafter made for disabling all Dissenters for ever
' Voting more for Parliament Men, and for wholly Repealing
' the Act of Toleration (and what less can they expect,
when THE LETTER TO THE DISSENTERS tells
'em till they conform to the Court-Measures, they are not

(a) In his Book Entituled, *A Brief Survey of the Legal Liberties of the Dissenters.*

worthy of the Royal Protection) these Laws may be bless'd with *the like Congruity*, which will be a SUFFICIENT REASON (to all but Whiggs) for the enacting of them, and the rather still, as the *formention'd Letter* tells the Word, That *'the Dissenters have not receiv'd any Thing from this Government but Kindness and Favour*, of which the Act to prevent the Growth of Schism, is a Notable Instance, as it has pass'd both Houses of Parliament, to prevent their living in (what the Pious Sacheverell has often told them is) a Heinous Sin: 'Tis true, I find the Dissenters of another Opinion; For they tell us, *That if the Toleration of Dissenters was a Grant of meer Charity and Mercy, yet it was no other Charity and Mercy than the Church of England, as Christians, were oblig'd to shew: Persecution for Conscience (say these Schismatics) being contrary to the Principles of the Christian Religion; and therefore if the High Churchmen were oblig'd to grant us Liberty of Conscience, they are equally oblig'd to continue it, unless they can prove the Dissenters have done any Thing to forfeit it, which (continue these Plotting Whiggs) we challenge all the Tories in England to prove.* And I find a great Part of the House of Lords of the same Opinion, and therefore before I come to discover *the Dissenters new Plot*, that I may act the Part of a Fair Enemy, (I mean that I may do the Dissenters Justice at the same Time I expose their Crimes) I will here venture to publish what many Noble Lords have said in their Favour in their late Protestation against the Bill for preventing the Growth of Schism, of which this is a true Copy.

The Lords Protest against the Bill, for preventing the Growth of Schism, June 15, 1714

I. **WE** cannot apprehend (as the Bill recites) that great Danger may ensue from the Dissenters to the Church and State, because, *First*, By Law no Dissenter is capable of any Station, which can be suppos'd to render him Dangerous. *Secondly*, And since the several Sects of Dissenters differ from each other, as much as they do from the Establish'd Church, they can never form of them-

themselves a National Church: Nor have they any Temptation to set up any one Sect among them; for, in that Case, all the other Sects can expect, is only a Toleration, which they already enjoy by the Indulgence of the State; and therefore 'tis their Interest to support the Establish'd Church, against any other Sect that would attempt to destroy it.

II. If nevertheless the Dissenters were dangerous, Severity is not so proper and effectual a Method to reduce them to the Church, as a charitable Indulgence, as is manifest by Experience, there having been many more Dissenters reconciled to the Church, since the Act of Toleration, than in all the Time from the Act of Uniformity to the Time of the said Act of Toleration: And there is scarce one considerable Family in *England* in Communion with the Dissenters. Severity may make Men Hypocrites, but not Converts.

III. If Severity could be suppos'd ever to be of Use, yet this is not a proper Time for it, while we are threatened with much greater Dangers to our Church and Nation, against which the Protestant Dissenters have joyned, and are still willing to joyn with us in our Defence: And therefore we should not drive them from us, by enforcing the Laws against them in a Matter which, of all others, must most necessarily grieve them, (*viz.*) the Education of their Children, which reduces them to a Necessity either of breeding them in a Way which they do not approve, or leaving them without Instruction.

IV. This must be more grievous to the Dissenters, because it was little expected from the Members of the Establish'd Church, after so favourable an Indulgence to them, as the Act of Toleration, and the repeated Declarations and Professions from the Throne and former Parliaments against all Persecution, which is the peculiar Badge of the *Roman Church*, which avows and practices this Doctrine: And yet this has not been retaliated even upon Papists, for all the Laws made against them have been the Effect and just Punishments of Treasons from time to time committed against the State; but it is not pretended that this Bill is design'd as a Punishment of any Crime which the
Protestant

Protestant Dissenters have been guilty of against the Civil Government, or that they are disaffected to the Protestant Succession as by Law establish'd, for in this their Zeal is very conspicuous.

V. In all the Instances of making Laws, or of a rigid Execution of the Laws against Dissenters, it is very remarkable, that the Design was to weaken the Church, and to drive them into one common Interest with the Papists, and to joyn them in Measures tending to the Destruction of it. This was the Method suggested by Popish Counsels to prepare them for the two successive Declarations in the time of King *Charles* the Second, and the following one issued by King *James* the Second, to ruin all our Civil and Religious Rights. And we cannot think that the Arts and Contrivances of the Papists to subvert our Church, are proper Means to preserve it, especially at a time when we are in more Danger of Popery than ever, by the Designs of the Pretender, supported by the mighty Power of the *French* King, who is engag'd to extirpate our Religion, and by great Numbers in this Kingdom, who are professedly in his Interest.

VI. But if the Dissenters should not be provoked by this Severity to concur in the Destruction of their Country, and the Protestant Religion; yet we may justly fear they may be driven by this Bill from *England*, to the great Prejudice of our Manufactures: For as we gain'd them by the Persecutions abroad, so we may lose them by the like Proceedings at home.

VII. The Miseries we apprehend here are greatly enhanced by extending this Bill to *Ireland*, where the Consequences of it may be fatal; for since the Number of Papists in that Kingdom far exceeds the Protestants of all Denominations together, and that the Dissenters are to be treated as Enemies, or at least as Persons dangerous to the Church and State, who have always in all times joyn'd, and would still joyn with the Members of that Church against the common Enemy of their Religion; and since the Army there is very much reduced, the Protestants unnecessarily divided, seem to us to be expos'd to the Danger of another Massacre, and the Protestant Religion in danger of being extirpated. And

And we may further fear that the Scots in Britain, whose National Church is Presbyterian, will not so heartily and zealously joyn with us in our Defence, when they see those of the same Nation, the same Blood, and the same Religion, so hardly treated by us.

And this will still be more grievous to Protestant Dissenters in Ireland, because, whilst the Popish Priests are Register'd, and so indulged by Law, as that they exercise their Religion without Molestation, the Dissenters are so far from enjoying the same Toleration, that the Laws are by this Bill enforced against them.

<i>Somerset.</i>	<i>Nottingham.</i>	<i>Dorset and Middle-</i>
<i>Bolton.</i>	<i>Carlisle.</i>	<i>sex.</i>
<i>Grafton.</i>	<i>Derby.</i>	<i>Rhadnor.</i>
<i>Devonshire.</i>	<i>De Longueville.</i>	<i>Greenwich.</i>
<i>Wharton.</i>	<i>Hallyfax.</i>	<i>Jo. Bangor.</i>
<i>Lincoln.</i>	<i>Somers.</i>	<i>Jo. Landaff.</i>
<i>Schonberg and</i>	<i>Haversham.</i>	<i>J. Ely.</i>
<i>Leinster.</i>	<i>Torrington.</i>	<i>W. Asaph.</i>
<i>Townshend.</i>	<i>Dorchester.</i>	<i>Orford.</i>
<i>Sunderland.</i>	<i>Scarborough.</i>	<i>Rockingham.</i>
<i>Cornwallis.</i>	<i>Comper.</i>	

Reader, Any Man in his Right Senses wou'd think, by this Protestation of Thirty Lords against the Bill, to prevent the Growth of Schism, that the Protestant Dissenters were neither Persons of Antimonarchical Principles, Republicans, Traytors to their Prince, or Schismatics.

However, (as a Conspirator) I shall be able to discover what Danger both Church and State is now in from the Dissenters, and let no Jacobite doubt (after Loyal Bisse has told the Parliament, (a) 'The Transition is natural from Schismatics to Republicans) but I shall prove the Dissenters engag'd in a Desperate Plot against the present Constitution; or, if my Reader shou'd be so much A FANATIC, as to say a False Accusation of a High Churchman is no Proof against a Dissenter; I shall so far Vin-

(a) In his Sermon preach'd at St. Margarets, May 29, 1714.

dicare Dr. Biss's Restoration Sermon (which the Whigs say promotes the Pretender's Design to invade England, by squinting so much at *Hereditary Right and Power*) as to prove the *Dissenters are all Plotters* (tho' I can't assert they are either *Schismatics or Republicans*) and that they are now engag'd in a deep Conspiracy against the *Lives, Morals, and Conduct* of the High Churchmen, but more especially against those Two Hereditary Loyalists O—— and B——

And here, that my Charge may be the more Black and General, I shall look as far back as Calvin's Time (in my giving a *Narrative of the Dissenter's Plots*) and shall continue my Discoveries down to the present Year.

But before I search into the several Conventicles of Great Britain, to observe what Treason I can find in 'em, it will be needful first to give some General Scheme of the whole Design of the Dissenting Plotters, that so when I come to discover their New Plot against the present Constitution in Church and State, our Anti-Schismatics may be the better convinc'd what a Horrid Plot those Dissenters (which they call Schismatics) are now engag'd in.

The Design (or Plot) which you will say is a terrible one, and therefore had need be well prov'd, as it shall be beyond all possibility of Answer, was this in short.

To go as far as possible from their Catholick Mother, whom they most rudely call'd the old Whore of Rome, and never to have any Correspondence or Symbolizing with her; nor give her any hopes of future Accommodation: by consequence to entertain nothing in God's Service, which had been notoriously abus'd by her to Superstition; insomuch that the Use in such Cases they thought hardly separable from the Abuse. Heartily to desire all Churches might be settled by this Rule, according to God's Word and Right Reason, but if their Lot was cast in any, in their Judgment yet wanting somewhat of what they desir'd, modestly, as Beza calls it, to declare their Dissatisfaction thereat, but yet not make an open Schism and Rupture, nor desist from their respective Duties, unless requir'd to submit to such Usages as they esteem'd not only less convenient, but even sinful, or to testify
and

and subscribe their Approbations of such Things, as their Consciences, after the calmest and strictest Examination, could not approve. For default of which Compliances, if forc'd out, yet using all Candour towards such as remain'd within the Pale; interpreting all Things fairly, not widening the Breach, but heartily desiring its Closure.

In State (this is their Plot) albeit they would be thought far from encouraging the Licentiousness of the Rabble, or private Persons, who have nothing to do in the Government; yet they must own, they cannot, nor ever could, screw themselves up to those highflown Principles, whereto some have only restrain'd Loyalty and Obedience. Nor can they believe that God and Nature made all the World for no other end than to be Slaves to the Lusts of some few great Robbers (such as O—— and B——) but that the good and happiness of Mankind is the topmost Law and surest Rule whereunto all Obedience is to be squar'd; and that this Obedience has Protection for its Correlate so eminently, that there can be no more one without the other, than a King without Subjects—— On which account they also think there is neither Treason nor Heresy in those Words of Calvin so often exclaim'd against as contrary to all Government——*Si qui nunc sint, &c.* If there be, &c. Being of the Opinion that the Estates of a Realm may, and ought to inquire into Abuses of that Nature, when notorious, intolerable, and remediless—— And that in such Cases Arms are lawful, albeit for the ill Consequences, never to be taken without the greatest Extremity.

Here is (as they say) their Plot, if you will credit Truth and them; and herein have been induc'd to embark, one way or other, all those of other Reform'd Communions, who have not been so zealous as others for the Continuance of those long Makebates (as they call them) amongst us; or who in Civil Matters have not primitive Zeal enough to hold up their Throats by Legions, till the Swords of Tyrants were blunted, and their Arms weary with teaching them the Exercise of *Passive-Obedience*—— The Instances of which in both Kinds, and their many Plots to obtain their Ends, shall be track'd in this Narrative from the Days of John Calvin (that Grand Fanatick) down to this present Year, 1714.

And here I shall first observe, that *John Calvin* wrote to that young King *Edward VI.* in order to the Reformation of our Church, and plotted Matters so well (in order to prevent all future Plots against the Church and State) that he did at last (as well as the Heretick Bishops about him) instil into him so much *Piety, Temper and Moderation*, as deserv'd to have been engraven and eterniz'd in his own Statue of Brass. And this Project of *Calvin's* was such a Plot (against the Sacred Hierarchy) that I dare assert, to be one of the *Felicities of the Church of England* that this *Plot* was a *Season*.

But what yet deeper Designs *Calvin* manag'd at this time against, (I mean for) the Church, and how he plotted the Forming of it after the *Primitive Model*, we may more than Conjecture from the Letters of a vigilant Catholick found in *Queen Mary's* Closet of *Sanguine Memory*, and communicated to *Queen Elizabeth* some years after her coming to the Crown, by a Minister of State; wherein the Politick Priest acquaints his Correspondent that it was the Result of the most refin'd Thoughts in their Communion, by all means to heighten Animosities among Hereticks; their Uniting having been fear'd, and terribly alarm'd the Romish See, inasmuch as *Calvin* himself had made Proposals to young *Edward*, on some terms to admit of Episcopacy among the foreign Protestants, to join all in the same Confession of Faith, and acknowledge that King to be their Protector and Head; which would have been of fatal Consequence to the Catholick Cause, on which account they bent their utmost Endeavours to have his Proffers rejected, and accordingly accomplish'd the same. When this was shown *Queen Elizabeth*, she protested she had rather than half a year's Revenue her Brother had seen this, and than a year's Revenue that she her self had seen it before. But what matter is it what *Queen Bess's* Judgment was in the case? She will have enough to do, to answer for her self, whose Reign we are now come to.

In whose long, should I add tedious Reign, all the Church and State began to contract those ill Humours which afterwards over-run both; and made us a Scorn to Lookers on, then, since, and now. It was then that
the

the open profess'd Puritan fell foul on *sundry Rites and Ceremonies, as the Cross, Surplice, &c.* as stinking so much of *Romish Superstition*; complaining moreover, the Church wanted farther refining. Sure the *High Churchmen* will own this to be a *horrid Plot*; yet to do the Dissenters Justice, this Plot to re-establish *Primitive Christianity* had ne'er succeeded, had not the Low Churchmen approv'd of it; for what could *these Fanaticks* have done, had not the moderate Men join'd their Cause, and promoted it more than they themselves? For albeit they were satisfy'd in the Rationality of all those Ecclesiastical Decrees and Usages; yet for the sake of Peace, and quieting those Complainants, and easing their Consciences, and avoiding the *Scandal of Schism*, in those Particulars they were inclining towards a Relaxation; nay, had great Hopes also to have accomplish'd this their notorious *Plot*, had not the ever-loyal Catholick Party, in meer Zeal for the *Protestant Religion by Law Establish'd*, obstructed their Intentions, and baffled their Hopes: So saith Bishop *Horn* in a Letter to that Arch-Heretick *Bullinger* at *Zurich* about this time. 'We have labour'd (saith he) to get the Act of *Garments, &c.* to be repeal'd, and had obtain'd it the last Session of Parliament, and hope to accomplish it in this, had not the *Papists* hinder'd it.' And several more of them write to the same Purpose, albeit they had before but over-much damag'd the Church, by perswading the Queen to have Images remov'd therefrom.

See we next how these subtle Serpents prevail'd with that Queen to be in a *Plot* against herself, and embark'd the Lords and Commons in the same Design. This they accomplish'd, by inducing sundry Principles destructive to General Power and Absolute Impery, both into her Judgment and her Kingdoms, whether Laity or Clergy; namely, that *Kings might be Resisted*, if they endeavour'd to destroy their Subjects: Which Position they contriv'd Bishop well inclin'd to their Party should impudently write, and in bare-fac'd Print, dedicate to the Queen; with whom that and such Advice had such Success, that he assisted the rebellious Subjects both of *France* and *Holland*, against their Liege Lords and Tyrants, the Kings
of

of *France* and *Spain*. Whereunto the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, as being likewise four'd with the same Leven, intirely consented, and granted liberal Supplys for that Purpose, and the Clergy Subsidies ; daring moreover, in their very Acts of Parliament, to stile these *Just; Necessary, and Religious Purposes*. From which Practice, how is it possible but evil-minded Nations will subsume, That if Queen, Lords, and Commons ; if Clergy and Laity, Persons of all Estates and all Characters, once and again did own and defend, assist and promote such an Action, they either were all the grandest Hypocrites, or else did truly in their Judgment think it was in some Cases lawful to defend Religion and Rights by Arms, and by consequence, lop off that *luxuriant Branch of Power*, whereby Princes might use their Subjects how they please, and be worship'd by them as a certain *Great Prince* is by the *Indians*, that he may do them no Harm ?

It is a very melancholy Consideration, how many Great Men among us were leaning to these same Opinions with these *Plotters* ——— *Horn, Grindal* himself, with many other Prelates, and, as we are told, a great part of one Convocation : And in the State, *Knollis, Leicester, North, &c.* all judging that on account of much Mischief in that and succeeding Ages, felt and foreseen by some things call'd by them *Not Essential* to our Church, they might with much more Profit than Damage, suffer some Retrenchment. But these their Wishes and *Plottings* succeeding as well as *Hacker's, Coppinger's, &c. Blasphemies*, (which yet we cannot perswade them to own) all fell to the Ground, without any Fruit to their Content, during her Reign. In which, even the Defection of the Papists from our Communion, (which the *Puritans* join'd in the first ten Years) is by the admiral *Heylin* charg'd on these *Fanaticks*, as a perfect Branch of their Plot, in Page 259. notwithstanding the World is so unhappily mistaken, as to think the direct contrary. Consequently, what more clear, than that all the Attempts made on that Queen by the Papists, *Parry's Conspiracy, Babbingion's*, the Queen of *Scots*, and even Eighty-eight itself, and the *Spanish In-*
vation,

vasion, are justly chargeable on this Party? and therefore
— *Christianos ad Leones.*

The succeeding Reign of King *James* would afford a very large Field, and tempt to expatiate on their *Loyal Plots*. I call 'em so, as all their *Plots* were only to serve and support the Government. I might instance in their *Sham-Plot of the Gunpowder Treason*, thrown upon the Catholics, to render them odious, albeit they have so frequently, when thereon interrogated, assur'd the World it was a meer Trick of *Cecil's*, (their Religion not permitting them to equivocate and lye) with others truly innumerable. We might furthermore account somewhat of their principal *Plotters*, the strongest Patrons of the moderate Party; namely, *Abbot* and his Followers and Admirers, who refus'd to judge in so lascious a Case as that of the *Lady Essex's* Virginity.

King *Charles I.* was hardly warm in his Throne, but the *Plotting*, before begun, was carried on with more Life than ever. Pursuant whereunto, they and the Party which favour'd them of our own, caus'd sundry of the King's Ministers to be remov'd, question'd that Supreme, Imperial, Absolute, Unaccountable, Unlimited Power, so often insinuated as inseparably inherent in the Crown of *England*; pretending things were not well manag'd, good Men not advanc'd, Viciousness not restrain'd, but encourag'd, the Laws not executed against Popish Recusants, but suspended; the Trust concredited, not observed; *Money illegally exacted*, and *Property invaded*; and finally, no Hope left to have Things fairly remedy'd, subscribing that Arms were necessary and lawful to remove ill Counsellors, and vindicate Liberties, tho' pretending the King's Name and Authority. Here again was their *Plot*; because,

1. Our Liberties had no Invasion. Some small things might be, as are in the best Governments, but not worth minding or speaking of——only sending all over *England*, to demand Money by Prerogative, without Parliament, and force the Stubborn and Rebellious, who refus'd to give to *Cesar* the things which were not *Cesar's*; suffer Confinement for their Pervivacity. Moreover, our
Religion

Religion was not in jeopardy, nor our Laws transgress'd, inasmuch as albeit some Hundreds of Popish Recusants were liberated from legal Durance, and likewise the Pope's Nuntio was here actually Resident, and Popish Plots discover'd, and offer'd to be deponed, against the King's Person, Government, and Laws. Moreover, albeit that the Queen was a zealous Promoter of their Religion, and likewise mortally hated the Protestants, Name and Thing; and was so entirely trusted, as to obtain and dispose of Blank Commissions, of which, use bad enough was made; yet still it becomes us to contradict our own Senses, and in no wise believe, that either our Laws or Religion were endanger'd.

Furthermore, it ought to be well consider'd, what fore Mischief *Moderation* wrought in the Councils and Actions of that Age, seeing those stil'd *Moderate Men*, (the *Trim-mers* of that Dispensation) were even more noxious and obnoxious than others openly enlisted, as was observ'd in former Reigns, and shall be in that succeeding. They were in the *State* for capitulating with Sovereignty, preserving Liberty, their great *Diana*; nor thought it damnable to keep their own by any lawful Means, or refuse to part with it, saving in a Parliamentary-way. In *Church*, for *Accommodation* and *Moderation*; and rather inclining to favour the Dissenter, than the Catholick. — Accord-ingly, not overfond of *Additions or Superstructures*, or *Refinings on the Ceremonies*. They believ'd a Man might be sav'd by the Merits of Jesus, without *Bowing* at his Name within Church, and Swearing by it as soon as he came out.: That it was not absolutely necessary to Salvation to have *the Church-Windows render'd devout, by darkning them with Pictures of the Trinity*: That it was not a mortal Sin to call the *Altar* a *Table*; nor of the Essence of the Sacrament, to have that *rail'd* in. Nay worse, they believ'd a *Calvinist* might be sav'd, and dar'd hope as much of *Jack Calvin* himself; tho many others would as soon be of *Origen's* charitable Opinion, that *the Devil might*. Neither did they conclude all those Reprobates who believ'd *Predestination*. They thought, by *Dr. Heylin's* Leave, it was lawful, yea, even praise-worthy, to keep the *Lord's Day*

Day as a Sabbath; and that Time full as well employ'd in reading God's Word, and singing Psalms, as in *playing at Foot-ball, or Maurice-dancing*. Nay, to lay open the very Core of those Fanatical Pustles and Blains that infected the sick Nation, they would have been condescending to remove or leave indifferent the *Cross* and *Surplice* themselves, to save the Souls of their weak Brethren, and induce Peace and Unity in the Church. What need we name all the *Plotters* who promoted these pernicious Designs, and avow'd the by-nam'd Principles? Who more notic'd that way than the Puritanical *Usher*? ——— Of whom need we any worse Character, than that the *Dissenters* honour'd and lov'd him? Who was nothing else, as *Dr. Heylin*, so much his Superior equally in Learning, Piety, Gravity, and Good-Nature, tells the World, but a *walking Bookseller's Shop, with a deal of old Lumber in his Head*, and who was notoriously Puritanical in most Points of their foremention'd Creed. Of the same Batch was the Bishop of *Lincoln* ——— The ——— *Name* ——— and ——— *Thing, Man*. Bishop *Downham*, *Prideaux* Bishop of *Worcester*, Bishop *Wilkins*, who might as soon get to the Moon in one of his own Chariots, as accomplish the less improbable Project of Union with these Dissenters, to whom he was himself too near ally'd. ——— One Fanatical Principle more I had e'en slipt, to which all these foremention'd, and numbers of the same Leven, were almost sworn; namely, that *his Holiness was Antichrist*, and his Metropolis, the famous City of *Rome*, meer *Babylon*. ——— Wherein he that cannot smell a Plot against the very Root of all Government, has no Nose. For his *Holiness* being, as is well known, a *great temporal Prince*, this reflecting upon him in that Capacity, does so likewise upon all others; on which account, no wise Prince would suffer those in his Dominions, who defend such a dangerous Maxim. Let me add, the reviving that unmannerly Position in the late Disputations against the Catholics, after it had been given them so frankly by so many great Doctors; the asserting and vindicating, and *almost quoting Homily for it*, could bode no Good to the Church, but

too plainly indicate, that some Designs were hatching, which have since been produc'd into Maturity.

But to return from this Digression: While I am describing to my unwary Countrymen the *Plots* in this Reign, and the brooding Mischiefs of *fatal Moderation*; let not those excellent Persons be forgot, who stem'd the Tide against it, or rather rush'd down the Stream, and overbore all Opposers; like good Soldiers, very generously letting the Ship split all to shivers, and sink to the Bottom, rather than suffer any *Interloping*.

Shall those great Names, *Sibthorp* and *Manwaring*, be ever forgotten, or how bravely and freely, *like Kings*, they gave to the King? — It is true, it was what was none of their own, — but there's the *Rarity*! — It is mean and vulgar only to give what is so. — But to give *Rights of Kingdoms*, *Power of Parliaments*, *Liberty of levying what Taxes he pleas'd*, without the old dull Formalities of saying, *By your Leave*, to the Lords and Commons; and on the other side, (like Dr. *S——rell*) *preaching the People into Damnation*, if the stingy Wretches should refuse even to send *their Heads in a Bandbox*, were it their Sovereign's Will and Pleasure to ask for them. This, in good Truth, was worth both giving and taking, and really deserv'd, between Man and Man, as good a *Deanery* or *Bishoprick*, in consideration, as any in *England*.

Of the other side — The making so many *Complements*, *kind Faces and Cringes* to his Holiness at *Rome*; the leaning that way, in a just Detestation of Fanatical Zeal, which swagg'd to the other; the pressing the very *highest Pinnacles*, nay *Vanes* of what one aptly enough terms *Sesqui-conformity*; the abominating, and almost excommunicating all Foreign Churches; the running down Law, *Ignoramus Lawyers*, (*Selden*, and such like) and the sawcy Tribe of *Jack-Gentlemen*. — These were some of the noble Expedients, by which those worthy Men oppos'd the *Puritanical Plotters*, and took such effectual Care to prevent and cure the *Schism in Church and State*, and all deplorable Effects thereafter arising.

Among those memorable Persons signally instrumental therein, let us by no means forget the grave, ingenious,
and

and good-natur'd Dr. *Heylin*. How much is really owing to his Pains and Honesty, we have already occasionally accounted, tho' too much can scarce be said on such a Subject; of whose truly remarkable Works, and those two especially, his *History of the Reformation, and the Presbyterians* — we may without invidious Reflections or Comparisons, boldly affirm, that hardly ever were two Books written like them, and that they deserve only to be compar'd with one another.

But graver and sadder Matters exact more Seriousness. These perilous Persons, the Subjects of the present Discovery, carry'd Matters yet much higher; and having first seduc'd a vast Body of the Church of *England* into their Cause, and much the larger Part of both Houses of Parliament, at that time to take Arms for the Vindication of those Libertys and that Religion, they (you see how unjustly) pretended in so much Danger; nay, having insinuated (as they are certainly a very cunning sort of People) some of their own Principles into the King himself, who had formerly assisted the *French* Protestants against the Oppressions and Contraventions of their own King; and so fully imbib'd him with the Lawfulness thereof, that to the very *Day* of his Martyrdom, after the severest Examination of his closest Thoughts, and acknowledging some Evils, which Reason of State had, he thought, push'd him on formerly; he yet never was known to look on this as any Sin or Error, in Word or Writing, tho' grantedly so pious a Man, and of so tender a Conscience.

After they had by these Methods, and a long War, ruin'd the Royal Interest and Family, they erected a *pretended* Court of Justice, whereon, by a Procces for that End then laid before them, they condemned their *Royal* Master. They will deny this, without doubt, as confidently as if they were innocent, charge the *guiltless* Catholics as guilty of contriving, effecting, and rejoicing at it, and pretend their Detestation of a Fact so devilishly barbarous and inhuman. — For Defence of the poor Catholics against their Calumnies, suffice it, they have no solid Argument to make good their Assertion, only that during the War, *more Papists were in the Rebels Army*