

14,047

KING-ABIGAIL:

OR,

The Secret Reign

OF THE

She-Favourite,

Detected and Applied;

IN A

SERMON

Upon these WORDS,

and Women rule over them, Isa. 3. 12.

iver'd (I can't say Preach'd) by Mr. JOHN
DUNTON, Author of *Queen-Robin*, and the
te Sermon, intitl'd, *Ox*— and *Bull*—.

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Upon the first *Wednesday* after *Easter* will be publish'd Mr
John Dunton's New Athenian Project, intitul'd,

NECK-INTELLIGENCE; or, *The Court-Spy*: Detecting such secret, odd, and uncommon Transactions of Church and State, as are wholly omitted by other News Writers. The Design of this *Court-Spy* being A private Search into the Religion, Morals, Families, Cabinets, Missions and Designs of some Great Men: Intermixt with what daily occurs that is most surprizing in the Works of Providence Nature and Art. Together with whatever Discoveries are sent to the Author (by Gentlemen and Ladies) out of the common Road of News. With A Spiritual Observator (or Divine Improvement) upon each Occurrence. To which will be added, *Athenian News*; or, A Resolution of any Nice and Curious Question whatever, if not answer'd before in the *Athenian Oracle*, written by Mr. *John Dunton*, A Member of the *Athenian Society*, and Author of the late Discovery intituled, *Neck or Nothing*. This *Neck-Intelligence*, or *Court-Spy* will be continued every *Wednesday* (if the great Hazard and Charge the Author will be at to carry on these Discoveries, meet with sufficient Encouragement) and Three Numbers will compleat a Volumn. To which will be added a general Title, Preface and Index. Publick Notice is hereby given of this *Neck-Journal*, that so if any Gentlemen or Ladies meet with any Notion, Instance, Discovery, Question, or Poem, that is very Nice and Curious, they might send it to Mr. *William Lutwich* at the *Sword* in *New-street* near *Fetter-lane* (not forgetting to pay Postage) and it shall be inserted in *Number I.* which will be publish'd upon the first *Wednesday* after *Easter*, and sold by *S. Popping* in *Parliament-street*, *Noster-Rom*, *J. Harrison* near the *Royal-Exchange*, *A. D. B.* and *A. Boulter* without *Temple-Bar*. Price 2 d.



T O T H E

R E A D E R.

I Would have none think, that my Design in this Discourse is to reflect upon the Conduct of the Female Sex in general; for so to do, would be to thwart the many famous Examples of those holy and judicious Women that we find on Records, both Divine and Humane. I am not, I say, speaking of Abigail the Wife of Nabal, but the Prostitute of Ox — and Bull —; not she whose Name survives in Holy Writ, for her Faithfulness, Prudence, and Piety, but she whose Infamy and Treason deserves to be written among the Black Catalogue of Traytors in our British Annals, as an everlasting Blot and Odium upon her Name and Posterity.

Once M——m knew the Splendor of a Court,
And made her Mistress to pay dearly for't;
But when a brighter Sun was rising there,
The conscious Insect soon withdrew afar;
Where she may live in her own active Mode,
By plotting Treason, and by acting B—d.

To the Reader.

It is this She-Favourite, and the rest of her Creatures, that I here speak of, as the Chief Authors of all our Calamities; and should not these be pursu'd with all manner of Execrations, who betray'd their Sovereign, provok'd the Innocent to Murder, and good Natures to barbarous Cruelties? It was by their pernicious Advice, that Religion had like to have received its mortal Stab; and their Maxims of Fire and Blood were just ready to be put in Execution. These sharpen'd, what Cuts, encourag'd the Violent to run after the Prey, and inflam'd the Desires of the Avaritious to invade the Peoples Right. Can there then be any Punishment great enough, in all the Extent of Humane Justice, for King Abigail and the Late Ministry, who have almost Ruin'd a flourishing Kingdom. I cannot therefore but remind my Superiors, that proper Resolutions may be enter'd upon, in order to bring our late Court-Favourites (who have endeavour'd to subvert and betray us into the Hands of the Pretender) to condign Punishment. Nothing so much encourages Traytors, as when they shall see that they may act their Treason with Impunity; and nothing can so much contribute to restrain the Insolence of such Traytors, for time to come, as the Certainty and Severity of Legal Punishments. It is therefore for the Peace, Interest, and Honour of Great-Britain, that these our Court-Earwigs be crush'd under Foot, and destroy'd; the which I heartily wish may be the Success of the following Sermon, which was lately deliver'd, I can't say preach'd,

B Y

Your Humble Servant,

JOHN DUNTON

KING ABIGAIL:

OR,

The SECRET REIGN

OF THE

She Favourite, &c.

ISAIAH III. 12.

As for my People, Children are their Oppressors, and Women Rule over them. O my People, they which lead thee, cause thee to Err, and destroy the Way of thy Paths.

THE Prophet in this Chapter setteth forth the dreadful Confusions and Disorders which shou'd unavoidably befall the Jewish State, upon the Removal of such out of Place, who had distinguished themselves by their Bravery, Sagacity and Piety. Such were their Prime Officers, in Martial, Civil and Ecclesiastical Affairs, as the mighty Man, and the Man of War, the

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the Judge and the Prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the Captain of Fifty, and the honourable Man, and the Counsellor, and the cunning Artificer, and the eloquent Orator, verse 2, 3. The General and the Captain who were fam'd for Skill and Courage; the Judge and the Prophet, the one whose Office was to Act, and by the Execution of Justice to Reform, the other to Instruct, and by Instruction to Reclaim; the Prudent and the Ancient, who were Men of Gravity, Wisdom and Experience; the Honourable, in Regard of their Birth, Place and Parts; the Counsellor, the main Support of the State; the eloquent Orator, or Man of Language: Yea, and so much as the very Artificer, they must all turn out of Place, as Creatures no ways serviceable to their present Designs. And when once these Pillars of the Body Politick were remov'd, the ruin of both Church and State must immediately follow, as of an House, when the principal Props are pull'd away that should support it; however, remov'd they must be, (for there was a Game to play, a Nation to ruin) and their Places supply'd by Persons whose Abilities for Government and Employment were too mean for so great a Trust, such as Children and Babes; and I will give Children to be their Princes, and Babes shall Rule over them, v. 4. A dismal Change, a wise and grave Ministry is turn'd out, and the Government is put into the Hands of Children and Babes, who are so either in Age and Years, and consequently rude and raw, wanting Experience and Discretion for so weighty an Employment; or they are Men of a Babilish or Childish Disposition for Wit, Skill, Carriage, Courage, and the like. These are no better than Children, nay, in some Sense worse, because less teachable and tractable. But some rather understand by the Words Children and Babes, Men of Illusions or Insoucencies, i. e. Mockers; Men of Insolent Carriage; such who (like our late Popish Faction when in Place) took delight in the scornful and impudent usage of others. These were the Men that were put into all Places of Trust employ'd in all the Offices of Government; and so was in Rehoboam's Time, who set aside that ancient, great

and wise Ministry, 1 Kings 12. 6. who stood before Solomon his Father, that Children and Babes might succeed to the overthrow almost of the whole State, a mad giddy Company takes the Place of a wise and steady Ministry, a sad Change, and as sad the Consequence, for either there is no Government, or an ill one, where no Governours are at all, or such in place of Government, that (as they are not able to Govern themselves) will inevitably ruin the State, and the People shall be oppress'd every one by another, and every one by his Neighbour. The Child shall behave himself proudly, against the ancient and the base, against the honourable, v. 5. And what better could be expected, they are now spoil'd, not only by underhand Dealings, but by open Force and Violence, Neighbour against Neighbour; there's no amity among them, for they are as forward to wrong a near Neighbour as a meer Stranger, a Friend as a Foe.

A general Confusion of all Degrees, without Respect of Age or State, for every Boy and young Stripling will take Heart and carry himself malepartly and insolently toward the ancient and honourable, and every base Fellow will make bold with, and carry himself lawcily toward Men of Worth and Weight; the whole State is all out of Order, for *Jerusalem is ruin'd, and Judah is fallen, v. 8. i. e.* The Jewish State, the Inhabitants of the City and People of the Land are fallen into Confusion, they have by the ill Conduct of those Persons in Place and Power ruin'd the whole State, and can no way extricate themselves out of it. All which the Prophet, after he had shewn the different Estate of Good and Bad, doth further Profecute, still charging the same upon the *Mismanagement of those who were at the Helm of Affairs,* which in the Words of my Text, he brings in by way of Lamentation.

As for my People, Children are their Oppressors, and Women Rule over them; O my People, they which lead thee, cause thee to Err and Destroy the way of thy Paths. This was the Root and Cause of the Confusions and Disorders of the Times [As for my People] whom God has
fo

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so long protected, so often fought for, who were once under the best of Governments, they are now by Persons Men of no Worth or Parts, baffled and abus'd; [*Children are their Oppressors,*] they domineer'd over them, implying as the insolent Carriage of the one Party, so the base Spirits of the other that could endure to be so dealt with by such, may we stop here? No [*and Women Rule over them*] O fatal! The Prophet, whose Vision was in the Days of *Uzziah, Jotham Abaz,* and *Hezekiah,* Kings of *Judah,* Isa. 1. 1. doth not here speak of Women possess'd of Regal Authority, but of such as *over-rul'd those that should have rul'd them;* these were Court Favourites, who having twisted the Scepter out of their Sovereign's Hand, being Children, domineer and insult the People, as *Jezabel* in *Israel,* and *Athaliah* in *Judah,* 1 Kings 21. 7. 15. 25. 2 Kings 11. 1, 2, 3, &c. *Brunhild,* the Wife of *Sigebert,* King of *Metz;* *Fridegund,* the Wife of *Chilperick,* and *Katherine Medices,* Wife of *Henry* the Second, are said to be the furies of *France,* and what Work they made in that Kingdom in their Generations, by abusing their Husbands Love and Authority, Histories are full; and this is Matter of Grief, and therefore [*O my People*] O! this Interjection setteth forth the Passion of the Mind; it is a Word, and Syllable less than a Word, a little less than a common Syllable, but full of Breathing; a short Expression of a long and longing Affection. *O my people,* he now turns himself to the People, as minding them who they were that were the prime and principal Causes of their Ruin [*they which lead thee*] i. e. thy Teachers; not only thine Enemies in the State, but those in the Church, thy Directors, thy Guides, even thy Priests, these are they which lead thee, *Blind-Guides, Blind-Leaders,* Mat. 23. 16. Mat. 15. 14. The Divisions and Confusions of the State are owing to these false Prophets; they have preach'd to thee, and deceived thee, with their *unscriptural* Cant; these have misled thee, and mistaught thee, and [*caus'd thee to Err*] these have seduced thee, and led thee out of the Way; these have been carrying on Designs against thee

thee, and that under the fairest shew of Piety; [*and destroy the Way of thy Paths*] i. e. they spoil and overthrow thee, they *debuach thy Judgment, thy Life and Conversation,* by their corrupt Doctrines. Thus much for the opening of the Words, which yet I shall divide as followeth:
And,

First, You have the Prophet's Lamentation.

Secondly, The Prophet's Information.

First, His Lamentation, [*As for my People, Children are their Oppressors, and Women rule over them*]. In this you have,

I. The Person lamented, they were the Lord's People [*as for my People*] not the Heathen, but my People.

II. The Grounds or Reasons of this Lamentation,

1. Children oppressed them [*Children are their Oppressors*] it is a fore evil to be oppressed, but it is an Aggravation of that evil, when Children shall be our Oppressors.

2dly. Women rul'd 'em [*and Women rule over them*] finely govern'd! A Woman ought to keep at home, and to mind the Affairs of her own House, as the Apostle saith, *Tit. 2. 5. Sarah was in her Tent at Home, Gen. 17. 9.* as the fittest Place for such, but in Church or State, it is both a Sin and a Judgment when Women shall rule over them——But

Secondly, You have the Information [*O my People, They which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the Way of thy Paths*] in which observe,

1. Their Sin; they erred, as wandring Stars that have no constant Course, they are a vagrant, wandering People, straying out of the Way.

II. The Degree of their Sin, even to the Destruction of all [*and destroy the Way of thy Paths,*] they were quite out of the Way, nor was there so much as the least Appearance of former Footsteps; while *Women and Children* get the Ascendant, while pester'd with such desperate evils as these, both Church and State are all in Confusion.

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III. The Cause thereof [*they which lead thee, cause thee to err, &c.*] their Priests were first in the Plot, those which led 'em, misled 'em, they poyson'd the Minds of the People by their *corrupt Doctrines*, to the Overthrow of both Church and State ; not that they were embroil'd with the *Cant of our late High Church Priests*, viz. ' That the Catholick Church is a Body subject to one only External Government. That every Christian is oblig'd to submit to the Laws of the Catholick Church, under Pain of Damnation. That *the Church is independent of the State*. That the Church alone hath Power to offer the Mystical Body of Christ in Sacrifice. That Episcopal Ordination is absolutely necessary for the Calling of the Ministers of the Gospel. That in Order to Absolution, there must be an Auricular Confession. That the Church and her Ministers have Power to pardon Sins. That all such as have not receiv'd their Baptism from the Hands of a Minister of the Episcopal Ordination, are under a State of Reprobation, and therefore must be rebaptiz'd, if sav'd. Nor can I think that they were perplexed with the *Roar of the Church's Danger*, or bully'd into a Belief, that Kings are in Possession of the Crown *By a Divine Right and Commission*, which place 'em above the Reach of all Laws and Power upon Earth, and make them accountable for their Actions, how impious and detestable soever, to none but God alone. That they are invested with an absolute and *Arbitrary Power*, over the Lives, Liberties and Fortunes of their Subjects, without any Respect to any Fundamental Laws which protect 'em. That an unconditional, slavish, Passive Obedience in all cases, without Exception, to all the Commands of such Princes, are to be observ'd upon *Pain of Damnation*. That there is an *Indefeasible, Hereditary Right to the Crown*, which renders it impossible to transfer the same from the next in Blood, upon any Pretence, or by any Power whatever. Nor those were *Doctrines unknown to former Ages*, but yet such were the Corruptions of those Times, that their ambitious Priests to faciate their Lusts, to raise and establish their own private Fortunes, fail'd not to *debauch the Minds*

of the People, (Jer. 23. 15, 16.) with some other Visions of their own Brain, tho' at the Expence of their Country and Religion; these were the Causes of all their mischief, and to whom were owing all the Confusions and Disgraces that befell the Jewish State. The Words thus consider'd, the subsequent Doctrines are, viz.

First Doct.] *That it is a sore evil, and mischievous to the State, when ill Court Favourites especially Women shall rule over them.*

Second Doct.] *That, that Rule and Government ever turns into Oppression, when Children and Babes get into its Possession, [Children are their Oppressors] the certain Consequence of an ill Government or none at all, for so it will be where there is no Governors, or such in Place that are not fit to Govern themselves. Wo unto thee O Land, when thy King is a Child, Eccl. 10. 16. i. e. when they are such in Understanding, tho' not in Years, when he is a weak or a wicked King, one who lets loose the Reigns of Government, is carried away by his Passions, that suffers himself to be impos'd upon by the crafty Insinuations of ill Court Favourites. When Nobility is debauch'd by conferring Honours on the Sons of Earth, and little People as void of Quality as Merit, when Villany shall be encourag'd by Preferments, and the whole State impoverish'd to make a few Creatures unmeasurably Rich. Such Princes are threatned as a Plague to a People, and they prove no less a Woe, we have of late been too sensible of. Our Henry the first, was often heard to say, that a weak or unlearned King was no better than a Crown'd Ass. Unto which Jehoiakim was likened, tho' Royally descended, Jer. 22. 19. And Antiochus, tho' a mighty Monarch, is call'd a vile Person, Dan. 11. 21. It is storied of Honorius the Emperor, that when he heard that the City of Rome was taken by Alarichus, he grieved most of all for the Loss of a certain Bird, which was there kept for himself. An unhappy People, while under the Government of so weak a Prince: But,*

Third Doct.] *That the Teachers and Preachers call'd Leaders of the People, almost in every Age, when concern'd in Matters*

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Matters of State, have prov'd the pest, plague, and ruin of all. It is ever of fatal Consequence, when these shall meddle with Matters of State [they which lead thee, cause thee to err, and destroy the Way of thy Paths] they deceive them by their Flatteries, and they do it to Purpose, for there is a Conspiracy of her Prophets, &c. Ezek. 22. 25. They have laid their Heads together, they are all agreed, and 'tis like to prove but an indifferent Game, for they never give Quarter, when they get the Advantage: They have no Grace, no Mercy, a lively Description of our late High-Church Priests, whose Conspiracy was by their corrupt Doctrines to make Way for their beloved Pretender. Their Shepherds have caused them to go astray, Jer. 50. 6.

Fourth Doct.] *That it is Matter of Grief and Complaint, even to Heaven it self, when the Teachers of the People shall be the principal Causes of their overthrow. God lays it to Heart, to see such Prophets and Priests among 'em, as only seek themselves, and Prey upon the People. [O my People, they which lead thee, cause thee to Err, &c.] They did that which affected the very Heart of God and provoked the Lord to cry out, O my People. But the Doctrine that I intend as the Subject of my Discourse, at this Time, shall be the first of these, which is as followeth.*

First Doct.] *That it is a sore Evil, and mischievous to the State, when ill Court Favourites, especially Women, shall Rule over them.*

It is a Truth that *Helio gabulus*, in a Merriment, set up a Senate of Women, but then their Ordinances were correspondent, As what Attire each Woman should use how they should take Place, when Salute, &c. But these in the Text were *Court Favourites*, who Working upon their Husbands and Paramours Impotencies (who are called Children because not swayed by right Reason but by blind Affection) not only oppress'd the Poor by their unreasonable Taxes to maintain their Pride and Luxury, but did so embarrass and confound the whole State, that they were reduc'd to the greatest Extremity

a fore Evil, and that which *Greece* and *Rome* sometimes groan'd under. *Diophantus*, the Son of *Themistocles*, once boasted that he rul'd all *Greece*, because he rul'd his Mother; she rul'd his Father, and he rul'd *Greece*. But *Cato* complain'd, *Mulieres regunt nos, nos Senatum, senatis Romam, Roma Orbem*, our Women, said he, rule us, we rule the Senate, the Senate the City, and the City the whole World. Nor is the Scripture altogether silent in this Matter, as in the Case of *Jezebel*, the Wife of *Ahab*, King of *Israel*, who was an *Idolatress*, a *Murdress*, a *Witch*, a *Whore*. This cursed Woman had so far gotten the Ascendant, that she drew both King and Kingdom into the most horrible Idolatry. A Grove was made, an Altar, an House was rear'd for *Baal* in *Samaria*, 1 Kings, 16. 32, 33. the Metropolis of the Kingdom, and this was by the Perswasion of this wicked Woman, whom *Jezebel* his Wife stirred up, and he did very abominably in following Idols, &c. 1 Kings, 21. 25, 26. She withstood and persecuted the Lord's Prophets even unto Death, 1 Kings, 18. 4. 13. digged down his Altars, 1 Kings, 19. 10. 14. kept a Table for Four Hundred false Prophets, and as their Captain and Ring-Leader she openly profess'd her self an Enemy to God and his Truth; and altho' I dare not say that this wretched Woman had any Hand in that scandalous Peace (so much against the Interest of the Kingdom) that *Ahab* made with *Benhadad*, yet this is undeniable, That the Rights, Liberties and Religion of the Subject were broken through, and almost destroy'd; they were Rob'd, spoil'd and murder'd at Pleasure; and so great was her Share in the Government, that she had the chief Secretary of State at her Beck; cou'd Issue out Writs, make use of the King's Seal, proclaim Fasts, 1 Kings, 21. 7. awe Magistrates, dispose of Lands and Possessions, and murder whole Families at once, as in the Case of *Naboth* and his Son, 2 Kings, 9. 26. In a Word, this Woman had so embroyl'd that Kingdom, that at last it ended in the bloody Extirpation of the whole Race and Family of *Ahab* and *Jezebel*, 2 Kings, 10. 17. It is suppos'd that *Jehoiachim's* Mother had also so great a Share in the Government

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Government of *Judah*, for she, as well as the King and Princess, were carry'd away to *Babylon*, 2 Kings, 24. 12. And *Athaliah* had so far gotten the Ascendant, in *Judah*, that upon the Death of *Ahaziah* her Son, such was her boundless Pride and Ambition, that having devested her self of natural Affection, most barbarously Murders all the Seed Royal, and steps herself into the Throne, where at the end of Six Years she meets with the just Reward of her Treason, 2 Kings, 11. 1, 2, 3. *Semiramis*, the Wife of *Ninus*, a very witty and beautiful Woman, whom her Husband loved exceedingly, as she was one Day in Discourse with him, told him, that she was exceeding desirous of a Thing, yet because of the greatness of it, she durst not discover it, nor could she hope to prevail. *Ninus* not fearing her Subtilty, bid her tell him what it was. She answer'd, That he should deliver to her the Government of his Kingdom for five Days; this he granted, which when she had obtain'd, she caus'd her Husband immediately to be slain, and so usurp'd the Government of the Empire into her own Hand; * but Thank himself for that, for what better could he expect, when suffering her to Rule, who himself should have rul'd, *Gen.* 3. 16. For what is it that such will not Sacrifice to gratify their haughty Inclinations. In the Reign of *Henry* the Second, King of *France*, Anno 1554, many were burn'd for their Religion, as they said, but

* In the time of the Third Kingdom of the *Heptarchie*, of the *West Saxons*, Queen *Ethelburg* having poyson'd her Husband, a Law was made that no King's Wife should ever after have the Title or Majesty of Queen, which was very strictly observ'd for many Years; but in process of Time, when *Ethelwolph* had married *Judith*, the Beautiful Daughter of *Charles* the Bald, then Emperor, in Honour of whom, in his own Court, he ever plac'd her in a *Chair of State*, with all other Majestical Complements of a Queen, contrary to the Law formerly made, which so much displeas'd the Lords, that for it they were like to depose him.

indeed

indeed it was to satiate the Covetousness, and support the Pride, Pomp and Luxury of *Diana Valentina*, the King's Mistress, to whom he had given all the Confiscation of Goods made in the Kingdom, for Cause of Heresie, and then let her alone to look out for the Prey. *Laodice*, the Wife of *Ariarathis*, King of *Cappadocia*, became such a Favourite at Court, that upon the Death of her Husband she immediately seiz'd upon the Government, and then rag'd Cruelly against all Sorts, both of the Nobility and Commons, whom she caus'd to be Murder'd : Yea, against her own Bowels, poysoning *Six of her own Sons*, that so she might keep the Kingdom more securely; only one little one escap'd her Fury, whom the People at last advanc'd to the Crown, and slew her. *Fatal are the Intrigues of an ill She-Court Favourite*; it is ever a Sin and a Curse to the Kingdom, when *Women shall Rule over them*: This is the ruin of all, and the very first Thing that ruin'd the World, was by *hearkening to the Voice of a Woman*; but of this I think enough hath been said, to prove that *She-Favourites* are often Mischievous to the State. It remains therefore, that this be improv'd.

A P P L I C A T I O N.

First Use. **T**HEN let us, my Dear Brethren and Countrymen, rub open our Eyes, that we may see who *are the fatal Instruments of our late Disorders and Confusions*; is it not owing to our ill Court-Favourites? Are not these the Springs that mov'd our vast Machines of State, who carried on the Designs of *France* and *Spain* to the ruin of their Country. All the Noise about the *Churches Danger, indefeasible Hereditary Right, Passive-Obedience, &c.* was but the subtil Intrigue of our late Court-Favourites, only to fit you for Popery and French Slavery. Let us turn over a few Leaves in Story, and we shall find how mischievous such have been to the State, to their Master and themselves, altho' I am upon the subject of Women-Favourites, yet I think it altogether not unprofitable to begin with the Men——And,

First,

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First, We shall take a little Notice of *Gavestone*, a Man of excellent Parts of Body, and of no less Endowments of Mind, Valiant and Witty, and if we could have added Vertuous, he had been compleat. This *Gavestone*, in the Reign of *Edward* the Second, was the only Oracle of that Time; and so much was the King captivated by this Court-Favourite, that nothing was done without him; the King's very Actions were but *Gavestone's* Impressions; by which it cost him not only Blood and Treasure, but the loss of his Subjects Love: For *Gavestone's* advancing was but the rest of the Lords debasing; his Greatness with the King, made them but Cyphers. But in regard of the Commonwealth, it was worst of all; for while the King was altogether rul'd by *Gavestone*, and *Gavestone* himself was altogether Irregular, the Kingdom could have but little hope of Peace or Justice while *Gavestone* liv'd; therefore at last, *took off his Head*.

The Lords having made an end of *Gavestone*, thought all their Troubles were then at an end; yet as if *Gavestone* had been a *Phoenix*, and as it were out of his Ashes another doth presently arise, which proves as great a Plague as ever *Gavestone* did. For now is *Spencer* become as great a Favourite as the former, and just such another in goodness of Person, and in favour with the King, but a *Trouble and Disquietment to the whole Realm*; for he so far brought the King to comply with his Humours, that nothing must be done but as *Spencer* will have it, which at length did so embroil the Kingdom, that it caused a great deal of Bloodshed among the Nobility, and the first Noble Blood that was shed since the coming in of *William the Conqueror*. The King himself was depos'd, and afterwards most barbarously murder'd; and this pestilent *Achitophel* was himself drawn, hang'd and quarter'd, his Head set on *London-Bridge*, and his four Quarters bestow'd in several Cities.

Next of all, we have an Account of Earl *Mortimer*, the Minion of King *Edward* the Second's Queen; who, after he had run his Lengths, was, in the Days of *Edward* the Third, apprehended and taken in the Castle of *Nottingham*, in the manner following. The King taking with him

William

William Monticote, Robert Holland, and others, went secretly one Night by Torch-light, through a privy Way, underground, till they came to the Queen's Chamber, where leaving the King without, they enter'd, and found the Queen with *Mortimer* ready to go to Bed. Then laying Hands on him, they led him forth, and committed him to the *Tower*, where he was accus'd of divers Crimes, as That he had procur'd the late King's Death: That he had been the Author of the *Scots* safe escaping out of *Stanhope-Park*: Corrupted with the Gift of 30000 Pounds: That he had procur'd the late Marriage, and scandalous Peace with *Scotland*, so Dishonourable to the King and Kingdom: That he had been too Familiar with the Queen, as by whom she was thought to be with Child. Of which things he was found guilty, and condemn'd, and thereupon was drawn, and hang'd upon the common Gallows at the *Elms*, now call'd *Tyburn*, where his Body remain'd two Days as an Example to succeeding Ages.

I might also cite out of Chronicle, *Woolsey*, the Earl of *Essex*, and others, whom Justice suffer'd not to go unpunish'd; but of all that ever I read, no Age was ever pester'd with such vile Traytors, as our late Reign. These for Villainies have exceeded all that ever went before 'em, viz. Ox—— and Bull——, meer Insects, bred out of Putrifaction by the Warmth of Royal Sunshire, the very Scourge and Plague of both Queen and Country. These, I say, were the insufferable Grandees, who abandon'd the true Interest of their Country by their Dishonourable Treaties of Peace; and who have for the sake of a few *Louis-d'Ors*, so play'd the Mountebank with the Body Politick, that they have almost cast it into a deep Consumption; for such horrid Designs were on foot, as would inevitably have reduc'd us to the most miserable Condition, had not Heaven it self, by a Miracle, deliver'd us.

Their Courses (as one observes) were violent and domineering; they own'd no Laws but Will and Pleasure, their Pace was always Full-speed, they whip'd and slash'd more like Masters of a *Bridemell* than Persons entrusted with the Government of Freemen; and to speak truly, tho' their

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Rise was but from the Dust, yet such was their Behaviour, that one would have thought 'em Monarchs of the whole World; and yet these at first were introduc'd I know not how; (perhaps by the Interest of a Strumpet) and ever since have made themselves to be valu'd by their secret and shameful Services, the Payment for which they durst never openly demand. In a Word, tho' wise Antiquity allowed no Entrance into the *Temple of Honour* but through that of *Vertue*, yet these (as hath been observ'd) have crowded themselves into Credit by the Recommendation of *Vice*; their Crimes, which truly deserv'd the Halter and the Axe, were the sole Rondels whereby they mounted the Ladder of Preferment.

These are they that set the Publick to Sale, that have betray'd their Country for Money. *Cursed Apostates!* who taught their Prince to break her Word, to the great loss of her Honour and Credit in all *Christendom*. These are they that have rais'd Slanders and Calumnies, to ruin those Honest Patriots that would have stopt the unhappy Torrent of the Times; that got *the bravest General in the World*, degraded for his past unparallel'd Services, and undoubted Loyalty to his Queen and Country; that drove out of all Places, Men of Fidelity, and placed in their room, Creatures at their own and the Peetender's Devotion; that have exhausted the Treasury, and stript the People to their very Skin, to feed their insatiable Avarice; that have given back to *France* all that we have been fighting for above these twenty Years, at the Expence of so much Blood and Treasure, and left the poor *Catalonians* to be sacrific'd by *France* and *Spain*; that caused all our Divisions in Church and State, robb'd the Queen of her noblest and most stable Throne, the Hearts of her Subjects, by creating Fears and Jealousies about her Heartiness to the House of *Hanover*; that would have made their Queen more Absolute than her Fore-Fathers, and yet at the same time render'd her less Considerable at home, and consequently less Reverenc'd abroad, than any of her Predecessors. These are their Lengths, and their Eclipses are now like to prove fatal, and their Falls the most desperate

rate of any, being universally hated, and cursed by the People.

But this is not all ; for that which adds Weight to our Burden is, that *Women have Ruled over us* : There have been *She-Favourites* as well as *Bearded ones*, which oftentimes have proved the most dangerous to the State, because tho' the weaker Sex, their Passions and Enchantments are ever strongest. In the Days of *Edward the Third, King of England*, Dame *Alice Pierce*, who being the *King's Concubine*, and presuming on his Favour, whom in his old Age she had subdued, grew so Insolent, that she imprison'd *Sir Peter la Mare*, Speaker of the Parliament ; intermeddled with Causes of Justice, and other Offices, where she her self would sit to effect her Desire. It is too true (saith one) ' That such have often govern'd the Politicks and the Fortune of a whole *Kingdom*, has been the Pastime of a Debauch'd Woman.' These have strangely derided the Authority of the Law, the Majesty of Empire, and more than once have trampled under foot Crowns and Scepters, have taken Pleasure, and Sported themselves in the Violation of Justice, and Gloried in their cruel Pride, in afflicting and rendring Humane *Kind Miserable*. It is not long since there appeared one of these *Succubusses*, who from the poor Degree of a *Chamber-Maid*, was at length made the Queen's Principal *She-Favourite*, and bore the *Privy-Purse* ; which very well agreed with the aspiring Mind of this Upstart Lady, a Person of small Religion, guilty of the greatest Ingratitude to her Friends, Ambitious, Proud, and insatiably Covetous ; and such was her Assurance, that she could demand out of the Treasury 30000 Pounds at a time ; and having such a Share of the Queen's Affections, her Part was considerable in the Management of Affairs, as will most easily appear, by her introducing those two fatal Favourites *Ox*— and *Bull*———. She snatches the Scepter out of her Sovereign's Hands, and Rules like an Absolute Monarch. *Abigail the Favourite Reign'd like a King*. And what follow'd ? Many brave and faithful Patriots by this Reigning Favourite, was driven away, and banish'd the Court, and placed in their room a mad domineering

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Cabal, who wou'd stick at nothing to advance the Interest of their Benefactors, tho' to the ruin of their Queen and Country; and indeed thus was that unfortunate Lady Queen *Anne*, brought to be at the Mercy and Discretion of this puff'd up Favourite, so that at last she could hardly cast a Look, but presently there were Spies to give an Account; nor utter a Word but what's told again, and in the midst of her own Court, and amongst all her Guards, she was environ'd with none but Savages, that were ready to prey upon her: For now since *Abigail* and her Creatures had taken Possession at Court, there was not a faithful Tongue about her, that dares truly represent the People's Sufferings, nor one honest Ear to whom she durst tell her own; and so far was this poor Lady intangled by this Jilt, that there was no way for her to release her self, because her Friends were driven from Court, that she must of Necessity fall into the Hands of this Reigning Favourite, and the rest of her Creatures; and being thus shackled in her Cabinet, her Person as it were a captive, and King *Abigal* in Possession of Affairs, the Catastrophe was dismal, for the poor Queen very suddenly, and I know not how, makes her Exit into another World: However, somebody, since the Queen's Death, hath been distracted, who in the height of her Distemper cry'd out, that she had abus'd her late Majesty's Person. O pestilent Favourite! O Monster of Ingratitude, to abuse so great a Benefactor.

In the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, one of these *Heroina's*, was risen to so high a Degree of Insolency, that having been solicted about a certain Affair which had been represented unto her as just and facile to be done, that she might the more willingly employ herself therein, she answer'd with a fierceness worthy of her Sex and Profession, That she used not her Credit so lavishly; that another might serve in so slight an Occasion, to do just and possible Things: For her part she accusom'd her self only to undertake those which were unjust and impossible. The very Picture of *Abigail*, whose Reign was made up of Violence and Oppression; and Women Rule over them, that's our Case. Story tells us,

us, that in the Reign of King Charles the First's Queen, before she had attain'd the Age of Twenty, began of a Pupil to be his Regent, and the fatal participant with him in most of his Counsels, and his *directrix* in the Government, and after her Mothers Arrival both of them gain'd an Interest in his inmost Secrets, and principal Transactions of State, an evident Truth, and more then stood with the King's Honour, the Nation's Welfare, and his own Personal Safety, for the Rule of these Women cost him his Head, besides a Million of Innocent Lives, in England and Ireland. Thus my Brethren, we see who are the Causes of all our Calamities, 'tis *Abigail*, and the rest of her Creatures, it is these that have *Rul'd* over us, that have enrich'd themselves with the Spoils of the People; the very pest of the Realm, and the *Evil Genii* of Princes.

Second Use.—Then this cries aloud to our High-Court of Parliament for Justice, upon our *late impious Court-Favourites*, for these have made our Saviour to be abhorred in the Eyes of all Nations. *Princes shall Rule in Judgment*: Therefore let not their Sin go unpunish'd, *Isa. 32. 1.* Wherefore now let the Fear of the Lord be upon you, take heed and do it: For there is no Iniquity with the Lord our God, nor Respect of Persons, nor taking of Gifts, *2 Chron. 19. 7.* Our abused Allies, who have been trick'd and bully'd into a Peace, they call for Justice; our Victorious General; our Merchants both at Home and Abroad; the late Protestant Ministry who were so shamefully treated and abandon'd the Court; the oppress'd People, who groan under their heavy Taxes; this City of London, whose Privileges were by these Usurpers trampled under Foot; yea, the Credit and Honour of the King and Kingdom, with the Security of the whole State, calls aloud for Justice. The injur'd Queen *Anne*, tho' Dead, yet cries for Justice, upon those who teaz'd and bully'd her to Death; the Blood of those brave Britons shed at *Hockley, Ramilies, Blenheim, Audenard, Ghent, Bruges, Lisle, Courmay*, &c. and sold at so cheap a Rate, cries for Justice, for that which was purchas'd at the Expence of so much Blood, was at once abandon'd to the Enemy for a few
Louis

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Louis d'ors. The Blood of the sacrific'd *Catalonians* cry for Vengeance upon these Vile Traytors, these demand Justice against them; their Blood is Vocal, and cries aloud and tho' it speaks no better, yet much louder than the Blood of *Abel*: For what Proportion (as one observe in another Case) hath the Blood of that Righteous Man to the Blood of so many Thousands; if *Ahab* for the Blood of Righteous *Naboth* was justly put to Death, what Punishment must those deserve who are guilty of the Blood of Millions: This Blood crys how long, how long O ye People of *England*, will ye forbear to avenge our Blood, will ye not do Justice upon the Capital Author of all Injustice? When will ye take those proud Beasts (*Ox*—— and *Bull*——) and offer them up before the Lord for an Attonement. And not only does the Blood of the slain cry Night and Day for Vengeance, but the *Wives and Children* cries Justice upon the Murtherers or else give us our Fathers and Husbands again; and should these be Silent, the very Stones in the Street would cry out for Justice against 'em.

Third Use.—Then how should this startle and awake our late ill *Court-Favourites*, who have rais'd their own private Fortunes out of the Ruins of their Country. Was it not you that made that scandalous Peace with *France* and *Spain*, that deliver'd up *Spain* and the *West Indies* to the House of *Bourbon*, by which means our Trade is reduc'd to Nothing. Was it not you that gave our Fishery upon the Coast of *Newfoudland* into the Hands of the *French*: That gave *France* such an Equivalent for the Demolition of *Dunkirk*, that he might fortify *Mardyke* at the Expence of *Great-Britain*, and make it a much stronger Port than the former. Was it not you that trickt our Confederates, stript the People, empty'd our Treasury, begger'd the Nation, bullied your Queen to Death, and made all Things ready for the Reception of the Pretender.

Let us reflect back a little, and consider you in your meaner Station, which, while so, you seem'd *honest*, and *resolute Patriots*; but since you have had the *Misfe*

fortune of being great, you have abandon'd all Thoughts of
 Publick Good. Your Preferments have stifled your Ho-
 nesty, for though you were not wicked before, yet is
 it too too evident that you are so now: Your Honour
 and Conscience you have set to Sale, to make your
 selves great in this World; and instead of *laying up your*
Treasures in Heaven, you have laid up your Heaven in
 your Treasures, and a dear Bargain its like to prove at
 last: For you are not only like to lose your Honour
 and Conscience, but *Estates, Heads, and I fear your Souls*
 too. O what worse then *Bedlam Folly* is this, that Men
 not unacquainted with History, and sufficiently warn'd
 by the *Experience of their own Times*, should Adventure
 upon the very same Precipices on which all that ever
 went before 'em perish'd. Do but look back on the
wrecks and shatter'd Fortunes, the dismember'd Bodies, for-
gotten Heads, and infamous Memories of your Predecessors,
 and then what hope of Escape, Remember *Hamon's*
Case, and tremble. Private Men, (saith one) *Oft-times fall*
on their Legs, and find Friends, to Relieve, at least to
commiserate 'em; and the Bankrupt Merchants are daily seen
rise again like Phenixes, out of their own Dust; but with
 such ill *Favourites* there are no Degrees of Misfortune:
 those *Ladders* you clamber'd up with so much Sweat,
 Address and Difficulty, upon your aggravated Crimes,
 serve but to render *your Precipitation the more Notorious,*
 and then too late you'll find your selves forsaken of all
 those Alliances, which you had with so much subtilty con-
 tracted, vainly imagining that you had laid a Founda-
 tion for everlasting Greatness. Your *Cobweb Policies* are
 unravel'd, and your most obliged *Creatures* begin to shun
 you already. Those that were rais'd by your Counte-
 nances, durst not own any Love or Honour to your Per-
 sons, least they should be *involved in the same Ruin,* by
 being at least suspected as concern'd in your Crimes. Your
 Enemies triumph over you, and even your Friends
 think it Charity enough to afford you *an insulting Pity,*
 and the People who with Reason universally hated, but
 lov'd you before, are now priviledg'd to curse you.

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In fine, having long since forfeited *your Innocency* (the sweet retreat of oppressed Vertue) you will now find no Sanctuary sufficient to protect you, but will be precipitated out of the World; loaded with Guilt and Shame, the ruin of Nations, the Destruction of your Queen, and the Execration of all Mankind.

Fourth Use.—Then hence learn our great Happiness in King George's Accession to the Throne of *Great-Britain*, under whose Reign the Glory of our British Court is reviv'd again. Blessed art thou, O Land, when thy King is the Son of Nobles, and thy Princes eat in due Season, for Strength, and not for Drunkenness, Eccl. 10. 17. i. e. when he is well-born, and yet better bred, when he is a wise and an understanding Prince, for Royalty without it, would be but eminent Dishonour. Blessed art thou O Britain, who hath such a King upon the Throne, that will no more suffer Women and Children to Rule over thee. No! for now our Princes or Officers of State, they eat in due Season for strength, and not for drunkenness, i. e. they are modest and abstemious, not dissolute and debauch'd. Great Men shou'd not Cater for the Flesh, Rom. 13. 14. but to serve the Body, that the Body Politick may be serv'd by it, and the Lord by both. Indeed, such was our unhappiness of late, that the vilest and most debauch'd was at the Helm of Affairs, who like Morning Wolves have devour'd the Prey; but now hath our King, like David, an able Counsel about him, true Lovers of their Country, that will not be brib'd by French Gold. We have now no Tricksters at Court, but a noble, wise, grave and steady Ministry. Queen Elizabeth was happy in her Counsel, to whom she adher'd, by which she grew amiable to her Friends and formidable to her Enemies, both at Home and Abroad. Wisdom is better than strength, saith Solomon, because the Welfare of a State is procur'd and preserv'd, not so much by the multitude of Warriours, as wise and faithful Counsellors; and therefore now is our Golden Age like to revive again, under the auspicious Reign of his present Majesty, who could in nothing act more wisely for his and the Kingdom's Safety, than by turning out the late, and making so discreet a choice of this present Ministry.

F I N I S.



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Author of Neck or Nothing.

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cover

Author of Neck or Nothing.

coveries of a Design to Murder the Author of Neck or Nothing, and of Lifting Men for the Pretender's Service, Writ by a Person of Honour. (3) *A Picture of the Golden Age*, (drawn from a general Union amongst Protestants) with this Title, *Dunton's shortest Way with the Dissenters.* (4) *A full Discovery of the Principles and Practices of the Dissenting Ministers*, written by the Ingenious Mr. *Alsop*, and is here printed from his original Copy, which (on the Account of its Rarity) was purchas'd by the Author of this Medal at a great Expence. (5) *Neck or Nothing*, a Poem detecting the Treason and Flight of the late Ministry, address'd to all true hearted Britons, with other surprizing and seasonable Discoveries. The whole dedicated to his Excellency the Baron de Bothmer. By Mr. *John Dunton*, Author of *Neck or Nothing*. Price 1s.

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Books writ by Mr. John Dunton,

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Dare to be True, nothing can need a Lye---Herbe

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