

The Shortest Way

WITH THE

K I N G :

O R,

Plain English

S P O K E T O

His MAJESTY.

Being the Third Part of *Neck or Nothing*; containing, *The Secret History of King George's Reign*, from the Death of the late Queen, to the Report made in the *House of Commons*, by the *Committee of Secrecy*. Introduc'd with the *Secret Reign* of the Monarchs of *Great-Britain*, for the last Sixty Years.

The whole Discoveries humbly submitted to the Consideration of the Right Honourable *James Stanhope, Esq*; one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

By Mr. J O H N D U N T O N,
Author of the First and Second Part of
Neck or Nothing.

Dare to be True, nothing can need a Lye—Herbert.

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TO THE
 RIGHT HONOURABLE
James Stanhope, Esq.

One of His MAJESTY'S

Principal Secretaries of State.

S I R,

TIS with the utmost degree of Pleasure I view such an *exalted Merit* as yours in such an *exalted Station*; and as no true *Englishman* can forget the *Brave and Glorious Defence* your Sword made in *Spain* of the *Liberties of Europe*, so no honest Friend to *English Liberties*, and their only humane Security, the *Protestant Succession*, can ever, I think, forget the *as Glorious and Brave Defence* you made of them at the **TRYAL** of that Incendiary, *Dr. Sacheverell*.

Do not then wonder, Sir, I chuse you out from all our *Patriots*, to address this Essay to. Your *great Knowledge in the Histories of our Princes*, and your *as great Sincerity and Candor*, pointed you

out as the properest Person for such a *Dedication* in which, as in the whole Account, I shall stick close to PLAIN ENGLISH, and Matter of Fact

To give you in the first place, *some Account of my Design in the following small Treatise*; it was purely this; I saw with Grief, too many, not only of my *F. W. Subjects*, but also *Fellow Protestants*, tho' but just deliver'd by the *immediat Hand of Heaven* from the Brink of Destruction (*viz.* from *Pepery and Slavery*) yet still so stupid as instead of being pleased and thankful, *murmuring at their greatest Blessings*; influenced, no doubt by ignorance of their late Danger, and the subtil *Influations* of our *Popish Adversaries*, who to lessen our present *Blessing in a Protestant King*, have left no *Falshood or Misrepresentation* unpractis'd, to lessen his Majesty in the Opinion, as well as Love of his People.

To this end, they represent *his Majesty's Conduct* in the *worst Colours*; and *his Royal Predecessors* in the *brightest*. Finding this our *Enemies Method* to undo us, I thought that to set our former and the present *Monarch's Conduct* in a true Light, (by writing their *True Secret History* in PLAIN ENGLISH) was the likeliest (and *shortest*) way to convince such of my Countrymen as err out of *meer Ignorance*, how much Reason they have to prize their present *Sovereign*; I have therefore show'd faithfully the *wrong Steps of our former Princes*, and only traced the *Conduct of our Present one*, from the *Death of our late Queen* to the time of the *Report made by that Committee*, of which you, Sir, was a *Member*; and which, tho' others stile only a *Committee of Secrecy*, I add another Title to, and I'm sure justly, *viz.* SAFETY, since on the Fidelity

lity and Prudence of their Search, depended the Safety of our Country.

Having proceeded so far in *my Secret History*, I draw no Inferences, they being so very obvious that it seem'd to me an *Affront* to the Understanding of my Readers, to suppose they needed it. Therefore, when I have related the *Matters of Fact*, I leave my very meanest Readers, (for whose Use indeed the whole *Discoveries* were chiefly intended) to make the Comparison, which if faithfully done, without Prejudice or Passion, the Inference will naturally follow, that they will sincerely prize, love and obey their *now Monarch*, and bless the happy Providence for *Britain* that placed him on the Throne of these Kingdoms; nay, they will go farther, for they will pay a just value to the Memory of our *Glorious Deliverer King William*, whose *blessed Legacy* the Protestant Succession was; and give likewise due Honour to the Memory of the *deceased*, and Persons of the *living* Patriots, who either by their *Advice* contributed to the present happy Establishment in Church and State; or by their *Swords* supported That and the *Glorious Revolution*, on which 'twas founded or secured to *Britain*.

Thus have I given you, Sir, *A True Account* both of my *Design* in, and *Motives* for *Writing, Printing and Publishing a True Secret History of the Monarchs of Great-Britain, for the last Sixty Years*. I might have done it indeed as truly in fewer *Words*, by telling you, 'twas like all my former *Pamphlets*, to serve my *Religion, Country*, and the *Protestant Succession* in that illustrious Family, that in spite of some Mens Endeavours to *Defeat their Succession*, by bringing in a *Popish Pretender*, do now,

to the inexpressible Joy of all sincere and wise Subjects, fill the British Throne. *Oh may they ever do so till Time shall be no more!*

If such honest Intentions and Endeavours deserve the Name of MADNESS with some Men, may I be always in this Sence MAD. 'Tis possible tho' I received this Title first from the Popish and Jacobite Faction, that some honest well-meaning Whigs might be so far imposed on by their Clamours and Misrepresentations, as to believe me so in reality; I mean SUCH WHIGS as did not personally know me, or had perhaps *more Caution* than I thought was proper in such apparent Danger as our Laws, our Liberties and Religion was lately in: But I will venture to say, several *useful and important Pieces of Intelligence* had probably never reached the publick Knowledge, (such as *the Scheme concerted by the late Ministry for bringing in the Pretender: The Jacobite Plot in Southwark: The Listing Men in Ireland: The treasonable Practices of Dr. Sacheverell, &c.*) had I not been so MAD (as some Men called it) to publish them. For *these Discoveries* I incurred the Displasure of the Men then in Power, particularly the Lord Bolingbroke, who made so long and strict Search after the Author of *Neck or Nothing* (where these Discoveries were made) as proved no less Expensive to me, than to his Lordship, only there was this Difference, his was repair'd at least, if not born out of the National or *French Treasures*, perhaps both; mine only by a small paternal Estate, which till then had set me above the Want of Necessaries for Life, tho' I had laid Business aside, as being *incapacitated* for that,
by

by severe and frequent Returns of those afflicting Distempers, the Stone and Rheumatism.

However, all my *Expences, Hazards and Losses*, were more than compensated to me, FIRST, By the Satisfaction I took in serving (*tho' with the utmost Danger of my Life, and to the exhausting of my little Estate*) my Country, Religion, and, as I said before, their only humane Security, the Protestant Succession. NEXT, In putting that ever Memorable and Glorious House of Commons in *Ireland*, upon the Search after the Men enlisted there for the Pretender, (the early Discoveries *my Neck or Nothing* made of *secret Commissions* for listing of Men in *Ireland*, being the sole Occasion of that *Vote of the Irish Parliament* which suppress'd that traiterous Project (a)). And LASTLY, In the gracious Acceptance his Majesty has manifested of my Services and Sufferings, by that Royal Mark of his Favour, the GOLD MEDAL he was pleased to order me by Mr. *Gatekey*, without any Application on my part, or Recommendation that I know of, to his Majesty.

Alas, who should I appeal to, were I never so desirous of laying the whole Truth of my Services and Sufferings before the King? I had lost my two best Friends, the late Lord *Wharton*, and the Bishop of *Salisbury*, before I thought of such an Application. Those NOBLE PATRIOTS were so fully apprised both of my Services and Sufferings, as that they would have readily laid both before his Majesty, had I made the least Application to them; as is well known to a *Person of*

(a) As is prov'd in my late Essay, intituled, *The Medal*, p. 16.

HENRY now living at Court, from whom I receiv'd all those *seasonable Discoveries* that were published in my *Neck or Nothing* (under a solemn Promise, I would ever conceal his Name and Quality). And is also proved by the Reverend Mr. *William Clark* (a), from whom I receiv'd the *Secret* of the Jacobite Plot in *Southwark* to Restore the Pretender, confirm'd by a *Popish Witness*, who offer'd to discover all the Persons concern'd in the Treason, in case my Lord *Bolingbroke* wou'd promise her Majesty's Royal Protection; but instead of that, he issued out *Six Warrants* to seize my Person, for daring to make this Discovery publick (b), so that the *Popish Evidence* (being suspected by the other *Conspirators* for making this Treason known) was forc'd to fly into the Country for fear of a *private Stab*.

I can with Truth affirm, I had no Rewards in view when I ventured my Life and incumber'd my Fortune to *serve my King and Country*, by making these *Discoveries*, tho' now I will not be so *False* to say, I do not think I have deserv'd them; for that *such Services* have always been accounted *National*, and publickly Rewarded, every one knows who have read any thing of *Antient or Modern History*. I shall instance but in *Two* of the many Examples that might be given in all Ages and Governments.

Immediately after the Expulsion of *Tarquin*, whose insupportable *Aerogance* and Cruelty had justly thrown him out of *Rome*, several *Hot-headed*

(a) Now living at *Shadwell*.

(b) In my Two Essays, intituled, *Neck or Nothing*, and *Court-Spy*.

Noblemen endeavour'd to restore their late *Prince*. These Designs were happily detected by a *SLAVE*, the Conspirators were brought to condign Punishment (as 'tis said *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke* will be in a few Days, as they are now *Impeach'd* for that very Treason which my *NECK ESSAY* charg'd 'em with *in the very Height of their Power and Glory*) and how the Discoverer was recompenc'd, *Livy* informs us, *Lib. 2. Secundum pœnam nocentium, ut in utramque partem arcendis sceleribus exemplum Nobile esset, præmium indici, pecunia ex arario, Libertas & Civitas data*; that is, Next to the Care they took in punishing the Criminals as they deserv'd, that they might *secure themselves from any such Attempt for the future*, and give an eminent Instance, that they knew how to Reward as well as to Punish, they immediately decreed to the Discoverer, a *Gratuity out of the Publick Treasury*, and gave him with his *Liberty, the Freedom of the City*. Which last was the greatest Complement the *Romans* could bestow, since Kings and crown'd Heads who deserv'd well of the Republick, receiv'd it as the highest Favour. Thus we see what Measures the *Romans* (the best Judges of true Honour and Policy) took upon these Occasions. But of more Weight are Examples from sacred Writ; and here I shall only ask, whether *Mordecai* did not deserve the noble Reward *Ahasuerus* gave him?

I shan't need to trouble your Honour with any more Instances of Royal Favour to such that (like *JOHN DUNTON* and the *Roman SLAVE* mention'd before) have ventur'd their ALL to serve the Publick; for the *real Services* I have done my King and Country, is become such a

Vox Populi, and are so generally and publickly acknowledg'd to be Matter of Fact, that 'twas not doubted, whenever his Majesty came to the Crown, (by whom all good Men expected the revival of a *Golden Age*) but the early Discovery I made (a) of *Oxford's* and *Bolingbroke's* Design to *Restore the Pretender*, would be NOBLY Rewarded; and for that Reason 'tis now as common to Drink a Health to SIR JOHN, as 'tis to ask, *what News from the Secret Committee?* or, *when will Oxford and Bolingbroke dye for their Treason and Villany?* SIR, I don't speak this that I am so ambitious as to expect a *Knighthood*, (tho all impartial Men do affirm, I run much greater *Hazards* to deserve it, than that *Illustrious Patriot Sir Richard Steele*, whose *loyal Crisis* and witty *Tatler* can never be enough Rewarded) for what does an empty Title signify without a Pension, (b) of at least a Thousand Pounds a Year, to support the Title, but only to inform your Honour what Opinion the Subjects of *Great-Britain* had of my Publick Services, and of the *Hazards* I run of my Life and Fortune, to *serve the King*, which I did in so zealous and faithful a manner, that when my Lord *Bolingbroke* was in search for me, tho I was advis'd to fly to *Hanover* to secure my Person, and to seek Rewards for the Love I had shewn to that *Illustrious House*, by venturing *Neck or Nothing* to serve it, and could have had *Recommendatory Letters* from my Lord *Whar-ton* and the *Bishop of Salisbury* for that pur-

(a) In my Essay, intituled, *Neck or Nothing*.

(b) For my want of *Health* does unfit me for any Place, tho' never so great and beneficial.

pose; yet I so much scorn'd to disgrace or betray a *just Cause by Flight*, that I was seen every Day at *Sumpner's Coffee-House in the Minories*, in the very Heighth of my Danger from the late Ministry. And at that very Time (as a further Proof of my great Love to my Native Country) I publish'd a Book which I intitled *Whigg Loyalty*, or an Humble Address to Her Majesty. In which I offer'd to appear and prove all my Discoveries, and several others of great Moment to the Queen and Kingdom, if Her Majesty would be pleased to grant Her Royal Protection to my self and Witnesses.

Which Address to the Queen, and not flying to *Hanover*, when I was threatned with Death if I staid in England, some have complemented me so far as to say, *Crown'd all the rest of my Publick Services*.

But (SIR) it may reasonably be ask'd here, considering the *Great Difficulties* these Services have laid me under in Point of Fortune, why I don't petition His Majesty for *some considerable Place or Pension*, that might set me above the *Fear of Arrests*, and enable me to be truly grateful to those *generous Friends* that have assisted me in my greatest Streights?

To this I answer, the true Reason why the *Case and Sufferings of the poor Man that would save the City*, (a) has not yet been represented to His Majesty, is, because I thought my Hazards in detecting the *Treason of the late Ministry*, were so well known, that there would have been no further Occasion to make them publick, for

(a) Eccles. ix. 14.

so much the grateful Part of the World expect it
 should be REWARDED for the Venture I run
 in exposing *Ox—and Bull*— for their *scanda-*
lous Peace, that I can't walk the Streets, but
one or other is asking for a Place under me; I
 have receiv'd Letters from some of the most
eminent Cities of Great Britain, where are these
 Words, ' Mr. Dunton, I congratulate you on
 ' the Impeachment of *Ox—and Bull*—, and
 ' the rest of those State Traytors that your *Neck*
 ' or *Nothing* formerly discover'd to the Queen
 ' and Kingdom, and as your *Discoveries* are now
 ' confirmed by the Secret Committee, we hope
 ' this has laid a good Foundation of a Reward
 ' from that Illustrious House you so greatly
 ' serv'd by 'em, and which we hope to hear
 ' will be grateful. — And as I have receiv'd
 such Congratulations as these from diverse Part
 of the Kingdom, on the *Impeachment of Ox—and*
and Bull—, so there's scarce a Friend that ha
 lent me Money, for those two Years their JA
 COBITE WARRANTS were in Search fo
 me, but now thinks I shall be inabled to d
 him *some distinguishing Favour*, as believing suc
 a grateful Prince as his Majesty, would never hav
 sent me a GOLD MEDAL, if he had not design'
 me a much greater Reward, of which I sha
 make no Manner of doubt, if that *generous an*
Faithful Minister SECRETARY STANHOPE wi
 do that Honour and Justice to my NECK AN
 VENTURE, as to represent it to the King with
 all its discouraging Circumstances and blessed E
 fects, for 'twas to defeat the Pretender's intend
 Rebellion, that was then plotting by a REIGN
 ING MINISTRY, and to secure the Briti
 Cro

Crown to the *GLORIOUS GEORGE* and to his Royal Posterity to the Worlds end.

But if after all, my *Bold and successful Attempts* to defeat the *Jacobite Plots of Great Britain and Ireland*, my *Venture of Neck or Nothing*, prove *Neck for Nothing*, I sha'nt dare to entertain the least *disrespectful Thought of his Majesty*, or think his *Illustrious House* (so greatly fam'd for rewarding such as have *distinguish'd themselves* by their *Zeal to serve it*) can justly be tax'd with the least *Ingratitude*; for 'His Majesty (a) can't be suppos'd to know either Men or Things, but as they are represented to him, and all must appear to his Majesty according to the Vehicle they pass thro', not their own intrinsic worth or value; for I humbly conceive tis not how well Men have deserv'd, but how well they are represented, and by whom. Many of the greatest *Virtues* must be their own *Reward*: And if this be my hard *Fate*, after *so many Hazards of my Life and Fortune* to serve the *Publick*, it shall neither *shock my Virtue, or Loyalty to my rightful and ever glorious Sovereign*, for God has his *Designs* in all that befalls us in this *World*, and if we pray, *His Will may be done*, we must resolve heartily to *submit to it*, which I desire also to do under all *Disappointments*, but I can never believe I shall meet with any, for that *real Service* I did to the *Hanover Succession*, when the *Jacobite Plot to restore the Pretender*, was just putting in *Execution*; for who ever reads my *Four Essays* in-

(a) As I have prov'd at large, in my Essay Nintitled *The Golden Age*, Humbly inscrib'd to His most Excellent Majesty.

titled

titled *Neck or Nothing, Whigg Loyalty, Queen Ro-*
and the Impeachment, will own I have so boldly
distinguish'd myself for his Majesty's Service, in
 times of the greatest *Danger*, that I assure my-
 self, were but half the daring Hazards I ran of
 my Life and Fortune, told his Majesty, they
 could not miss of a *Royal Reward*, in Proporti-
 on to those great and seasonable Services my
 Discoveries did the Nation; For King *Henry*
 the VIIth who was a wise Prince (as my Lord
Anglesey informs us, in his *State of the King-*
dom prepar'd for King Charles the second, (a),
 had a Book prepared for him, in which was an Ac-
 count of all who merited of the Crown, or had been
 rewarded by it; this wise Prince well knew, that
 without his keeping by him such Memorandum
 as these, the Condition of poor and modest Me-
 would be desperate, and the boldest Beggars (the
 perhaps such as had deserved least) would be be-
 rewarded, Princes thro the Bountifulness of their
 Natures, being easier wrought upon than other
 Men. And therefore I can't think that so wise
 and Gracious a Prince as His present Majesty, is
 less careful and generous than *Henry* the VIIth
 to enquire out and reward such as have faithfull
 serv'd the Crown, seeing he has told his People
 in His first Speech from the Throne, That He
 would never forget the Obligations He had to those
 that had distinguish'd themselves by their Zeal and
 Firmness in the Protestant Succession, against all the
 open and secret Practices that had been used to de-
 feat it. And to the Honour of our present Mi-

(a) Printed for Mr. Samuel Crouch, at the Cor-
 ner of *Popes-Head-Alley* in *Cornhil*.

arch it must be owned, that as *no Prince ever Rewarded more nobly*, so he bestows his Royal Favours he most wisely, rewarding none but such as have truly deserv'd it, and then in just Proportion to their Merits from the Publick, (in this acting like the Great *Alexander*, who was wont to say, *He would never bestow a Favour upon any Subject, but when he was inclin'd to give as a Monarch*) And therefore all the Strife amongst his Majesty's Subjects should be only this, *Who shall most faithfully serve, and most passionately love so wise a Prince, and so good a Master.*

However, as 'tis impossible even for the wisest Prince to know who, or how far any of their meaner Subjects deserve their Favour, unless represented to them by such who have the Honour to be near their Royal Persons, 'tis a Justice we expect from them, and in my humble Opinion, the best use they can make of their freer Access to the COMMON SOVEREIGN, as it demonstrates at once their Fidelity to their Prince, and Disinterestedness for themselves; this makes Ministers both loved and honoured by their Fellow-Subjects, for every honest Man must wish the Prosperity, the long Life and farther Honour of a Minister of State, so truly Just and Noble.

This *Dedication* has already exceeded the length I design'd, and yet I beg leave, before I conclude, to implore the Honour of your Protection and Patronage. The universal Fame of your uncommon Generosity to Honest Men, gives me both the Assurance to ask, and the Foundation to hope this Favour; as also, that as your great Services and greater Merits, as well as Publick Station, give you, Sir, always the ROYAL EAR, you will be pleased

pleas'd at some proper Season to lay my *Loyal Service* and *Real Sufferings* before my King, who has already without those advantagious Circumstances, shew'd such a Goodness to me, and given such a Proof of his Gracious Acceptance of my Love and Service, in the *Medal* his Majesty was pleas'd to honour me with, upon his being presented with my Book call'd, *The Golden Age*.

And I have still the greater reason to hope that Your Honour will lay before his Majesty the great and many Hazards I run of my Life and Fortune, to serve his Illustrious House, as your **GENEROUS PREDECESSOR** (in the same high Post) not only commended my great Zeal for the Protestant Interest, in Translating and Printing Two large Volumes, intitled, *The French Book of Martyrs, (or History of the Edict of Nantes)* but sent me word (by that ingenious Gentleman, and true *Englishman*, **COUNCELLOR COOK**) That he had procur'd for me Queen *Mary's* Royal Licence for the sole Printing of it. And the Honour Secretary *Trenchard* did me in this Particular, was still the greater, as this *History of French Persecutions* was the only Book Queen *Mary* honour'd with her Royal Licence during her whole Reign.

S I R, I shall conclude, having already (I fear) intruded too far on your Time, dedicated to Important Affairs, and presum'd so far on your Generosity and Compassion for such as Write and Suffer for the same **GLORIOUS CAUSE** for which you Fought and Spoke with only this Assurance, that tho I have not the Honour to be Personally know to you, yet none of those *Happy Men* that are, have a more profound Respect for you than,

S I R,

Your Most Humble and Devoted

Servant to Command,

JOHN DUNTON

THE
SHORTEST WAY

WITH THE

K I N G :

O R,

P L A I N - E N G L I S H

S P O K E T O

H I S M A J E S T Y .

Being the Third Part of NECK or NOTHING.

G R E A T S I R ,

W H E N I look up to the *Greatness* of your
Quality, and down on my own *Mean-*
ness, I cannot but tremble to make this
Address so liable to be *censur'd as Pre-*
sumptions, and obnoxious to variety of Misconstruc-
C tion :

2 *The Shortest Way with the King ; or,*
tion : But since my Pen is guided by an Heart fill
with *profound Loyalty* and *Veneration* towards all the
Royal Family, and a sincere Respect, and most Pa
sionate Desires for the particular Prosperity (*Temp
ral and Eternal*) of your Majesty, I cannot refra
discharging what I apprehended my Duty, and there
fore with good *Hesitation*, finding not only my Country
but your Majesty's Person in apparent Danger, from
the *Secretive* (or *Jacobite*) *Faction* I am resolv
to venture *Neck or Nothing* a Third Time, in Dis
covering some **STATE SECRETS** (I mean the
Fatal Rocks on which many of your *Royal Pre
decessors* were Shipt-wrackt) and *if they Perish, they
Perish*; but this I can never Fear, as all my Design
making these *New Discoveries* is to present the World
with a *True Secret History* of King George's Re
ign *from the Death of the late Queen to the Report made
in the House of Commons, by the Committee of Secrecy*
which I shall **INTRODUCE** with the *Secret History*
of the *Monarchs of Great-Britain, for the last Sixty*
Years, that so by comparing your Majesty's Re
ign with that of your Predecessors, I may make it
appear that *Great-Britain* is now Blest with one of the
best of Princes (I'll not except the *Glorious William*)
that ever sway'd the *British Scepter*.

To set this *True Secret History* in the better Light
'twill be necessary that I take — *The Shortest Way
with the King* — I mean that I speak such **PLAIN**
ENGLISH to my Gracious Sovereign, as other
Writers have refus'd to hear, or at last to Practice.

In these **DISCOVERIES**, I begin with *Charles the First*.
As my Design is to present your Majesty with a
Secret History of our English Monarchs, from the beginning
of the **CIVIL WAR**, to that **GOLDEN AGE**
which your Majesty has reviv'd by your **ROYAL**
EXAMPLE. (a)

(a) As I lately prov'd in my Essay intitled,
Golden Age.

The Third Part of Neck or Nothing 3

In this *Surprising Narrative*, I shall present your Majesty with *no Secrets* but such as I have collected from *Living Witnesses*, or Authors whose Credit was never question'd, and shall Dress my whole Discoveries in such PLAIN ENGLISH, as was never yet spoke to a Sovereign Prince; for tho' *A Cat may Look on a King*, yet few Subjects have dared to speak the *Naked Truth* in the Royal Presence. King Charles I. looking out at a Window, said to one of his *Favourites*, *He saw a terrible Sight in the Element*, who told his Majesty he saw it too, and was greatly affrighted at it; upon which another of his *Courtiers* looking out at the same Window (*thinking to please the King*) affirm'd, there was no frightful Thing to be seen at all, but that *all their Astonishment* was wholly owing to *Imagination*; to which his Majesty answer'd, *Oh! how unhappy is a King of England, who can never have the Truth spoke to his Face*. Tho' I can't the Honour to stand in your Majesty's Presence, yet I have here publish'd such PLAIN ENGLISH for your *Royal Perusal*, as will convince your Majesty you have ONE SUBJECT in *Great-Britain* that dares speak the Truth to a *Crowned Head*, without Disguise, or the least Mixture of Flattery, which has prov'd Fatal to most of our British Monarchs; but (to the Joy of all Loyal Subjects) is a *Erasing Vice* that King George has ever abhor'd; and therefore I hope that my *Secret History* will meet with your Majesty's Gracious Acceptance, as 'tis compos'd of nothing but *Plain English*, and is such a *Neck Adventure*, that has been long desir'd, but was never attempted before; for tho' we have *many Essays upon the Lives of the late Kings* that have been call'd their *Secret History*, yet they have been all stufft with so many *Romantick Stories*, there has not been a *True Secret History* (I mean one confirm'd by *undoubted Authority*) but what I have ventur'd to publish in these Sheets, where I'll warrant *all my Discoveries* the *Matter of Fact*, and most of 'em, such as I am

4 *The Shortest Way with the King; or,*

able to prove by *Authors that are yet Living*. 'Tis true, the JACOBITES (I mean those Men who had they Power, have shewn they want not will to destroy us) will be ready to say, however faithful I may have been in Writing *the Secret History of former Kings*, yet that I have been too partial to King George; but I wou'd have these MAD-MEN consider that if *my Secret History of your Majesty's Reign* don't make your *Royal Conduct* so black as the Enemies to *the Protestant Succession* wish it, 'twas none of my Fault, but wholly the Fault of your Majesty, who (as I find by those that have been Privy to your SECRET ACTIONS in your *Closet, Bed-Chamber, and Cabinet Council*) never spoke or acted that Thing in your whole Life, but what if known, wou'd add to your GLORIOUS CHARACTER: However, as *Herbert* says,

Nothing can need a Lye.

And therefore I have DARED to speak such *Bold Truths* in *my Secret History of every Reign*, as other Authors are afraid to Whisper; for 'tis always NECK OR NOTHING with me, in a just Cause and for that Reason *the Discoveries* I here make to your Majesty, are all deliver'd in PLAIN ENGLISH (in which *the Short Way I take with the King*, will be thought too Bold for a Subject) but as my *Secret History* contains a Search into a Dangerous Sor which cannot faithfully be perform'd without some Smart to the Patient, I presume your Majesty will not be Angry with the Hand that toucheth it, but consider that it is but what is Necessary to prevent *greater Mischief in Time to come*. I own the *Operation* might have been perform'd more tenderly by others, but more faithfully it could not have been done by any. For tho' I am very SHORT (or Bold) in Discovering the Ill Conduct of some of our *former Kings* yet the PLAIN ENGLISH with which I treat th

Vic

The Third Part of Neck or Nothing. 5

ices is publish'd for no other End, but that your Majesty (a Prince of a Spotless Life) by avoiding them, *may render your Reign easy and glorious.* However, having distinguish'd my self so far in the Reign of the late Ministry, as to venture *Neck or Nothing*, in detecting the Enemies to the *Hanover Succession*, for which your Majesty has ALREADY honour'd me with that *Noble Mark of your Royal Favour, a Gold Medal* (a) I assure my self you will not be more displeas'd at my speaking of PLAIN ENGLISH in your own Reign, than you was in the Reign of your Predecessor, when I spoke it at the hazard of my *Life and Fortune.* For as your Majesty's Illustrious Merits have always set you above Flattery, and made you an Enemy to it, so 'tis evident by your *Royal Gift* to so Mean a Person as *John Dunton*, that what-ever Subject has Honesty or Courage enough to serve the Crown, shall be nobly Rewarded by it, according to the Example of those *Great Princes* (mention'd in my *Dedication* to that *True Englishman and Illustrious Patriot, General STANHOPE*) whose exalted State was so far from making them forget their meaner Subjects that had ventur'd their ALL to serve the Crown, that their *obscurity and poor Circumstance* serv'd only to extend their *Royal Gratitude* to the higher Pitch, and *Plain English* (i. e. *Plain Dealing*) was always the chief Part of their Merit; but how far the *Poor Author* of *Neck or Nothing* (who has Nothing to Recommend him but daring to publish *such Plain Truths* as Cowards Knaves and Jacobites call *Madness*) may further partake of your Majesty's Royal Favour, is left to Time to determine, though I shall presume to say, I have *the better Title* to it, as I had no Reward in View when I ventur'd to publish *those Discoveries* (in the late Reign) that open'd the

(a) Which occasion'd me to Write a Book, I entitle *the Medal, or a Loyal Essay upon King George's Picture.*

6 *The Shortest Way with the King; or,*

Eyes of my deluded Countrymen, and convinc'd 'em they were just on the Brink of Ruin, *shou'd I never have any greater Reward, I shall ever think it a great Blessing that I have discharg'd my Duty to my King and Country.* And I hope I may without Vanity, say, I have run *as many hazards to serve both, as any Englishman ever did, especially from the Jacobite Faction, who will never forgive those early and seasonable Discoveries I made in my NECK OR NOTHING (of Oxford's and Bolingbroke's Treason, for which they are now IMPEACH'D) or that PLAIN ENGLISH I have publish'd in this Secect History, for it has rarely happen'd that Plain English could steal Abroad, without being call'd malicious (or perhaps MADNESS) by them who cou'd not Answer it, or were afraid to speak it.*

Hence those Infamous Betrayers of their Country *Ox—rd, B—ke, Ph—ps and H—rt* having fatned themselves with its spoils, were likely to have been transmitted to Posterity, *as Men of Merit for their Loyalty; and the Victorious Marlborough, Stanhope, Cadogan, and those other HEROES who fought it out in the Breaches, and whose Blood has been the fruitful Seed of those Liberties we now Enjoy,* were likely to have been robb'd of their due Honours, which wou'd have been transferr'd to others who as *MAGPYES* (or such other Insignificant Things) *cure Agues,* were thought to have relieved their Country, *at the very Time they were Plotting its utter Destruction.*

Past and present Times, shew by what good Fortune they were found in that Cause, for which the Noble *RUSSEL,* the Brave *SIDNEY,* and the Innocent *CORNISH* fell worried and unlamented by them, and without so much as their *charitable Opinion of the State in which they dyed.*

Nothing but a *True Secret History of the late Reign* can hinder the Cause of these *Illustrious Patriots* from being yet render'd Vile, and their Allies (as well as the

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hose of our GLORIOUS WILLIAM) from being ramped on without Rebuke, by every EXAMINER, (a) or horrid Vindicator of Murder in Form, but without Colour of Law.

And 'tis notoriously known, to the Grief of good Subjects, and the shame of bad ones, that this TONGUE-PERSECUTION has arose to such a mad Height, that even your Majesty at *several Cabals* has been treated with less Honour and Respect than is due to *your Illustrious Merits*, or that becomes a People whose vast Obligations to you should have better instructed them in their Duty.

But since SCANDALS will arise, to prevent the Woes that has attended, the *Inventers and Promoters* of them, I have essayed to put a Stop to their Currency, by writing a *True Secret History of your Majesty's Reign* (or rather a SATYR on your Glorious Character as your very Perfections by exceeding the Measure of humane Vertues are call'd Vices by the English Jacobites.) What I chiefly Design by making these *New Discoveries*, is to *Reclaim the Traducers of your Majesty's Government*, and disabuse the People who are imposed upon by False Suggestions, and attempted to be frightened out of their Allegiance with feigned Fears and Dangers. 'Tis true, such A SECRET HISTORY (as I write it in *Plain English*) is like to cost me a *private Stab*; (for my Jacobite Enemies DARE NOT assault me like *Men of Honour*) but if these State-Mobbers take the Freedom publickly to Affront, Scandalize and Abuse your Majesty's Royal Person and Family, if others may not have the Privilege of Vindicating the *Honour, Innocence and Integrity of your Illustrious House*, and of throwing the Calumnies upon the Heads of the Aggressors, the Case is very Hard, and admits of greater Aggravations, by Reason their Cause is juster :

(a) The Title of a *Jacobite Paper* that is said to be writ by Dr. Swift, and publish'd Weekly.

8 *The Shortest Way with the King; or,*

For if such a *Course* must carry it (and the *Sacheverilite Faction* may be allow'd to misrepresent or blacken a Protestant Prince, who endeavours to make us truly Pious and Happy People) the Liberty we have so long and earnestly contended for is all *Chimerical* whilst every Man hath not an equal Share in it. And therefore since it can't be suppos'd that any Law of *Honour, Conscience, or of the Nation*, can be violated by an honest Design of continuing a Right Understanding, and a mutual Agreement between the ROYAL HEAD and LOYAL MEMBERS, by removing the Cause of Dissention, which cou'd never be thoroughly effected but by publishing a true *Secret History of your Majesty's Reign, and of such of your Predecessors*, as will serve to set your own Reign in the better Light; and I have ventur'd to write this *Secret History* in PLAIN ENGLISH, as thinking that THE SHORTEST WAY to do Justice to your Majesty's *Royal Virtues*, and to convince the Subjects of *Great-Britain* they are now as Happy in a COMMON FATHER, as they were in the Reign of the *Glorious William*, to whose Goodness and Foresight we owe that long Race of *Protestant Kings and Queens*, that 'tis hop'd will proceed from your Majesty's Loyns, to the End of Time. 'Tis true, the *Sacheverilite (or Mob) Faction* do still amuse and confound us with their *Jacobite Doctrine of Indefeasible Hereditary Right*, and their old Cant of *Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance* to a Popish Pretender; and (for that Reason the *Train'd-Bands* were rais'd, to keep these HIGH CHURCH-REBELS from disturbing those Transporting Joys that the *Blessed Day of your Majesty's Birth* gave to the Loyal Whiggs) but my *Secret History* has set these PASSIVE-VILLAINS in such a True Light, as will either make 'em *True Converts to the Honover Succession*, or else to become a Scandal to the English Name. For though the *High-Church Mobbers* have not yet been punisht with

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that Severity their Crimes deserve, yet we are far from Living in those Times that *Tacitus* commends, wherein a Man might think what he wou'd, and utter what he thought. Such a Liberty as this can be Lawful in no Case, but in that of writing the *Secret History* of a good King, that has been (falsly) accus'd with bringing the Church in Danger, on purpose to lessen him in the Affections of his People, and to make Way for a Popish Pretender; and here I confess *Plain English* (or a Freedom of Speech) is needful for without this Liberty a good Prince may be misrepresented, and Foundations sap'd before the Treason is fully known, and yet I must own (to the Scandal of such that han't Courage enough to hazard their Reputation or Lives in a good Cause) who ever has ventur'd *Neck or Nothing* in Discovering such Secrets that have been for his Princes Honour or Safety, has been thought justly to Suffer for being *Righteous over much*, or else call'd A MAD-MAN, as was the Case of that Loyal Divine Mr. *William Bisset*, and many other Persons of sound Judgment, and undoubted Credit.

Be it as it will, as your Majesty's Honour, and the Interest of my Country has ever had the Ascendant over my Affections be that and Truth my License to write a true *Secret History* of your Majesty's Reign, and that of your Predecessors, from *Charles I.* to this Time, in which I shall be so SHORT with your Majesty's Royal Ancestors, that not one false step in all their Reigns shall scape my Notice, that may either set your Majesty's *Perfect Conduct* in a true Light, or prove we are now Blest with the best of Kings.

Having said all that I think necessary of the Design of my *Secret History*, and of that SHORT WAY (or *Plain English*) your Majesty is to expect in it, I shall introduce it with such Discoveries in the Reign of the BLESSED MARTYR *Charles I.* as perhaps had never come to *King George's Ear*, had
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10 *The Shortest Way with the King ; or,*
not NECK OR NOTHING ventur'd to publish 'em
in these Sheets.

And here I am first to inform your Majesty, the
Cowardize of *King James the First*, as it made him
betray the Protestant Interest Abroad, naturally bred
in him a distrust of his People, and *servile Corruptions*
with *Foreign Princes*, from whom he apprehended
any Danger. This made him earnestly solicit
a Match for his Son *Charles*, with the *Infant*
of *Spain*. The Father's Fears, as it is to be hop'd,
rather than the Son's Inclinations, occasion'd that
Flattering Letter to the Pope, which hangs Heavy upon
Charles's Memory.

And tho' the Match took not Effect, the *Papists*
obtain'd those Advantages, by a *cunning Management*
of the *Treaty*, which were not easie to be
triev'd, and were confirmed and enlarged by the
Marriage with a Daughter of *France*, the mischievous
Effect of which is visible in that *amazing* *Letter*
which is to be seen in *Rushworth*, of *Papists* employ'd
in that Reign in all manner of Offices.

King James, upon the Breach of the *Spanish Match*
put forth a Proclamation for putting the *Laws*
Execution against *Popish Recusants* ; but upon the
first of *May*, *King Charles I.* sent this Warrant to
Lord Keeper *Williams*.

Charles Rex,

Right Reverend, and Right Trusty, &c. Whereas
I have been moved, in Contemplation of our
Marriage with the Lady *Mary*, Sister of our dear Brother
the Most Christian King, to grant to our Subjects
Roman Catholics, a Cessation of all singular
Pains and Penalties, as well Corporal as Pecuniary, wherunto
they be subject, or any ways may be liable by
Laws, Statutes, Ordinances, or any thing whatsoever,
for, or by reason of their Recusancy or Religion
in any Matter or Thing concerning the same. Our
Commandment and Pleasure is, and we do by these Presents, au

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vize and require you, upon the receipt hereof, That immediately you do give Warrants, Order and Directions, as well unto all our Commissioners, Judges, and Justices of the Peace; as also unto all others our Officers and Ministers, as well Spiritual as Temporal, respectively, to whom it may appertain, That they, and every of them, do forbear all, and all manner, and cause to be forboren, all manner of Proceedings against our said Subjects, Roman Catholicks, and every of them, as well by Information, Presentment, Indictment, Conviction, Process, Seizure, Distress, or Imprisonment, or any other Ways or Means whatsoever, whereby they may be molested for the Causes aforesaid. And further also, That from time to come, you take Notice of, and speedily redress all Causes and Complaints, for, or by reason of any thing done contrary to this our Will; and this shall be unto you, and to all to whom you shall give such Warrant, Order or Direction, a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in that behalf. And this is so much more remarkable, that this Warrant was granted when Buckingham was so busie in setting out the Fleet against the Rochellers.

Here was a Suspension of the Laws with a witness, by the King's absolute Will and Pleasure; notwithstanding all the Officers by Law were under the Obligations of their Oaths to the contrary; and for the First-Fruits of this Warrant, the King granted upon the 10th of May a special Pardon to twenty Roman Priests, of all Offences committed by them against the Laws.

Hereupon the Commons sent Sir Edward Coke with a Message to the Lords, to desire their Concurrence in a Petition to the King against Reculants, which was agreed to, and presented to the King, who answer'd, That he was glad the Parliament were so forward for Religion, and assured them, they should find him as forward; that their Petition being long, could not be presently answer'd.

12 *The Shortest Way with the King; or,*

Now *Buckingham* and *Laud* rul'd all. ----Downright Popery would not pass with *Charles I.* but a *Laug dean-Prelacy*, or *British-Patriarchate*, which was little better, had gotten Possession of his Understanding, and prevail'd upon that Prince, who, I believe was a *very good Man to do those Actions*, which if he had not had the Churchmen on his Side, would have blacken'd him almost as much as the *old Monk* do any of his Predecessors.

As the Violations in his Time of the Constitution of the *English Government*, are by no means to be justify'd, neither can any Man answer for his Discretion in losing *Scotland*, meerly to gratify the Bishops here; who could not be satisfied with Uniformity in their own Churches, without making *Scotland* damn all that would not believe in *Atheism*.

The Queen's Party finding the King's *Blind-Side* struck in with *seeming Zeal* for the *Church of England*. But that they might secure a Retreat, if that should not prevail, sent some upon the *Forlorn* of the other Side. And as Bishop *Bramhall* has fairly discover'd, 'Till they came to acquaint one another with the Mystery, many of them were surpriz'd at encountering their Brethren in the Field. This must be said of them, That tho' their Animosities among themselves often proceed to great Heights, they never fail in joining against Protestantancy.

Nor is it now to be doubted but the Papists animated the Episcopal Party against *Scotland*, and against the moderate of their own Members here, and insinuating themselves into the Leaders on the *contrary Side*, perswaded them to break off all Treaty with a Prince, who would gladly then have yielded very far, and was not of a Religion which could dispense with the Breach of Oaths and Promises.

How well King *Charles* observed his Father's Advice (in calling Parliaments often) nay, how dia-

metrical

metrically he went contrary, and contrary to all the good Advice given him in the very first Year of his Reign, will soon appear, and the miserable Effects which follow'd.

I have heard my Father affirm, 'That they would oft pray to God that the Prince might be in the right Way where he set out; for if he were in the wrong, he would prove the most Willful of any King that ever Reigned.

Tho' all must stoop to mighty *Buckingham*, yet that he might stand surer, who must be his only Support but *Laud*, Bishop of *St. David*; who from picking Quarrels in Lectures at *Oxford*, and being an Informer before, now is become Vicegerent to *Buckingham*; a List of all the eminent Men for Promotion in the Church, is privately given in; those whom *Laud* would have promoted, were noted (O) for *Orthodox*; and whom he liked not, were marked (P) for *Puritans*. These two stopt up both the King's Ears from any other Directions in Church or State, but what was infused by them; so early did King *James* his Prophecy to my Lord-Keeper *Williams*, when he was so importunate to have *Laud* preferr'd, begin to be fulfilled.

These were the Secret Counsels which govern'd this King in the Infancy of his Reign: Now let's see the Success.

The Commons were so far from granting Subsidies now, as in the last Parliament, before Grievances were redress'd, that upon their first meeting, they fell upon Examination of Grievances, and the Miscarriage of the Fleet to *Cadiz*, the Evil Counsellors about the King's Misgovernment, and Misemployment of the King's Revenue; and an Account of the three Subsidies and three Fifteenths granted in the Twenty-first of King *James*: That new Impositions and Monopolies were multiply'd, and settled to continue by Grants, Customs inhaunced by the new Books of Rates, and that Tunnage and Pound-

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age was levied, tho' by no Act of Parliament, and the Guard of the Seas neglected. And indeed it was every thing else in this Arbitrary Reign, but what (secretly) seem'd to enrich or protect those two reigning Favourites, *Laud* and *Buckingham*.

Here your Majesty may see the unhappy Fate of Princes who treat their Subjects as Enemies, and their Flatterers as their only Friends and Confidants; for notwithstanding the King's ill Success last Year at *Cadiz*; and the King's Complaint for want of Money in the *Exchequer*, and the ill Terms he was at with his Subjects, not only to be put upon making a War against the King of *Spain* and the Emperor, but now also against the King of *France*, and to have none but *Buckingham*, *Laud*, &c. and their Partisans to support him in all these Wars; and who could humane Wisdom foresee of any good Success in them, being against three the most Potent Princes of *Christendom*.

For the Charges to maintain these Wars almost against *Christendom*, the King requires a Benevolence of the Subject, and the Nobility to lend freely demands a Loan of 100000 *l.* from the City of *London*, charges the Ports of *England* to furnish Ships upon their own Charges, issues out Privy-Seals for Benevolences in proportion to the four Subbdies and three Fifteenths voted by the Commons, grants Commission to execute Martial Law, billets Soldiers and makes the Country pay their Quarters; Rich who refuse to pay the Loans, are assessed, and bound over to answer at the Council-Table, and other press'd for Soldiers. Which Arbitrary Proceedings (tho' it be *Plain English* to speak it) was that SHORT WAR which cut off King *Charles* Head by the common Hangman. And yet these were the Ways this King took to justify his Integrity and the Weal of the Kingdom, so as to satisfy not only his own Conscience, but his People, and the whole World, as he promis'd in his Declaration for Dissolution of the Parliament.

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But lest the King's Royal Proclamation for these things should be stumbled at, or disputed, *Sibthorp* and *Manwaring* (two special Favourites of *Laud*) are set on Work to preach, *That the King is not bound to observe the Laws of the Land in his Government, and that his Royal Will in imposing Loans and Taxes, does oblige the Subject's Conscience upon pain of Eternal Damnation.*

The greatest Objection against Hereditary Monarchy, is, That Princes Ears are always open to Minions, Flatterers, and Sycophants, whereby they barely understand the State of their own Affairs, or of their Subjects: To attemper this, the Wisdom of our Constitution ordains, That Parliaments be frequently held, to represent to the King the State of the Nation, and so to inform him of Grievances, that they may be redress'd. But this Doctrine being despised by the Enemies to Arbitrary Government, that pious Man *Laud* said, *I seem to see a Cloud arising, and threatening the Church of England; God of his Mercy dissipate it.*

Archbishop *Abbot* excepts against his Licensing *Sibthorp's* Sermon; for that the King's taxing Loans by his own Authority, was neither by the Law nor Customs of England, the King in his Answer says, *He did not stand upon the Laws and Customs of England, for he had a President for it, and would insist upon it.*

I confess to your Majesty this Part of my Secret History seems incredible, but I can produce a Witness of undoubted Credit, who positively affirms that the King said, *He did not stand upon the Laws and Customs of England, and that he had a President for taxing Loans by his own Authority.* To which Words of King *Charles*, Archbishop *Abbot* reply'd, *He thought it was a Mistake, and feared there was no such President, and that Henry VIII. desir'd but the sixth part of Mens Estates, but the King desireth the full six parts, so much as Men are set at in the Subsidy-Book.*
And

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And when the Commons in the third Year of his Reign made a Remonstrance against the King's taxing Tunnage and Poundage, not granted by Parliament, the King calls this *a detracting from their Sovereign*, and commands all who have or shall have any Copies of it, to burn them upon Pain of his Indignation and high Displeasure.

The King, for Causes of dissolving this Parliament (the last he shall ever dissolve) begins with the usual style, *That he well knows that the calling, adjourning, proroguing, and dissolving Parliaments, are undoubted Prerogatives inseparably annexed to his Imperial Crown, of which he is not bound to render any Account, but God alone, no more than of his other Regal Actions.* But *Quid Gloriaris!* Did ever any King of England say this before his Father and himself? Or in what Common-Law Book or Acts of Parliament is this to be found? Or if he had such Power, Why do the King so often boast of it? Sure it had been better done by another than himself. Is this a time of day, when this Prince had lost all his Honour and credit, to magnify himself, that he has Power to dissolve Parliaments at home, and thereby obstruct those Ways by which he might unite him to his Subjects, and then glory, that he is only accountable to God for all his Actions; which he affirm'd to his Parliament in these Words, *I must avow that I will give the account of my Actions to God alone.*

The King, little pleas'd with what he had done, and less with what the Houses had done without him, follows the Scots into Scotland, and there engages the Covenanters with all Courtship imaginable, makes Lesley the Scots General, Earl of Leven, and confers other Honours upon the Covenanters; calls Parliament, and consents to the Extirpation of Hierarchy, and establishes Presbytery in as Plain English (or rather in as Plain Scotch) as the Kirk of Scotland could desire; the Scots at present promise all Di

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and Obedience to him; but how well the King found in a short time will appear.

Whilst the King was thus busied in *Scotland*, an horrible and hellish Massacre was perpetrated in *Ireland* by the *Irish* upon the *English*, wherein it's computed above 200000 Protestants, Men, Women, and Children were butcher'd; after which follow'd an universal Rebellion; excepting in *Dublin*, *London-Derry*, and *Iniskillen*, which was headed by the Pope's Nuncio, a most proper Head for such a Body; yet so intent were the Factions in *England* and *Scotland* in establishing their Designs, that little Care was had of the miserable Relicts of the Protestants in *Ireland*. But as the *Irish* Rebellion was a Secret Plot concerted at *Rome*, no wonder the Pope's Nuncio was at the Head of it. — Upon the King's going into *Scotland*, the Parliament prorogued themselves to a certain Day; but the Commons appointed a Committee to prepare Business against their next Meeting, yet sent Spies to observe all the King's Actions; and after the King's Return to *London*, which was upon the 25th of *Novem.* 1641, the House of Commons, upon the 5th of *December*, make *A Remonstrance of all the King's Miscarriages abroad, and of the Grievances and Illegalities of his Ministers at Home, from the Beginning of his Reign*; and that the King might be sure to see it, as well as hear of it, they print and publish it.

The King not being used to such Language, was struck to the Quick by the Commons Declaration; and to retaliate it in act, upon the 3d of *January*, summons the House of Commons, and demands Five of their Members to be tryed for High-Treason, for holding Correspondence with the *Scots*; Than which could not have done a more imprudent Act; for if he unravell'd all that he had done in *Scotland*, involving the *Scots* in the same Crime.

But the Members had their Agent in the King's most Secret Councils, and had Notice of the King's coming.

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coming before, and so *the Five Members* were withdrawn. This Act of the King did not only set *the House* in a Flame, and put the City into Tumult, but brought Petitions from *Buckinghamshire*, (where *Mr. Hambden*, One of the Five Members, was Knight) that the Privileges of Parliament might be secured, and Delinquents brought to condign Punishment. All this while poor *Ireland* lay bleeding.

The King, as unstable in his Resolutions as considerate in his Actions, retracts all he had done, and promises not to do so again ; but to no purpose, for the Members resolve not to trust his *Word, Prerogative, and Absolute Will and Pleasure* and therefore will tear the Power of the Militia from him, rather than suffer this, tho' upon the pretence of Tumults, the King resolves to leave *London*.

In *England* things could not hold long at this ; but upon the 22d of *August* the King comes to *York*, and sets up his Standard there, and invites all his loving Subjects to come to his Assistance against the Rebels. Never was Nation shuffled into such unhappy Circumstances ; for to join the King was to return to his *Prerogative-Royal, and Absolute Will and Pleasure* ; and I have oft heard say, of those who follow'd the King in the War say, *as much dreaded the King's overcoming the Parliament Party, as they feared to be overcome by them* : the Houses had broken the Fundamental Conditions of the Nation, so as no Man could tell where they would stay.

Now are things brought to that pass which *the King* had been *Secretly* contriving several Years in *England* and *Ireland* in Civil-Wars, and sending Pensioners to *France* ; so as he might now see how to carry on his Designs of advancing the Grandeur of *France*, without any Fear of Disturbance from *England*. And now we might see the miserable Condition of the King's Minions and Favourites had brought the King and all his Kingdoms.

In the first Year of this War, the King's Armies were every where victorious in the North and West. In the Scots next Year, as zealous to promote their Covenant in *England*, as *Laud* before was to establish the Liturgy, Canons, and High Commission in *Scotland*, enter *England* the 16th of *January* in 1643; and about the same time the King makes Truce with the *Irish* for a Year, and calls the *English* sent to receive the *Irish*, to assist him in *England*; but with different Success; for the *Scots* take *Newcastle*, *Wigham*, and after *Carlisle*; whereas the *English* from *Ireland* are routed, and *Coll. Monk*, after *Duke of Berwick*, is taken Prisoner.

From this time the King's Affairs go backwards, till the fatal Fight at *Nasby*, the 14th of *June*, 1645. Here the King's Army is utterly defeated, and as Providence having determin'd the Controversy by the Sword, it now lays open the King's Designs in what he had prosper'd.

For at this Fight the King's Letters to the Queen were taken in his Cabinet, of his Secret Designs, in some of them was mention of the King's Intention of making a Peace with the *Irish* Rebels, and to have 40000 of them over into *England*, to prosecute the War here.

In others, the King complains, That he could not prevail with his *Mongrel Parliament* at *Oxford*, to vote that the Parliament at *Westminster* was not a lawful Parliament; That he would not make Peace with the Rebels (*the Parliament*) without her Approbation, nor go one jot from the Papers his Queen lent him. At the same time calling the Parliament a Crew of Vipers that must look for their Reward and Punishment; by which your Majesty may judge of the Temper of *Charles I.* if he had overcome his Enemies.

That upon the Treaty at *Uxbridge*, he did not positively own the Parliament, it being otherwise to be construed, tho they were so simple as not to

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find it out, and that it was recorded in the Notes of the King's Council, that he did not acknowledge them a free Parliament.

The Members having got these Papers, not only printed and published them, but order them to be kept upon Record, and also make a publick Declaration concerning them, wherein they shew, *what the Nobility and Gentry, following the King, must trust to.*

From this time forward, all things go to wrack on the King's Part; so that the King seeing his Fortune inevitably declining, offers himself into the Power of the *English* Parliament, *now his Mongrel* as he pleased to call them, could no longer protect him; but the Parliament refuse him; then he seeks Protection of the *English* Army, but with no better Success; so as now he had no other Refuge but to throw himself into the Arms of the *Scots*, who were the Beginners of all his Calamities; and to this he was *secretly* invited by the *French* Ambassador who was then in the *Scottish* Army; for tho' *Richlieu* was then dead, and also his Master *Lewis* the XIII. yet *Cardinal Mazarine* following *Richlieu's* Designs; kept a constant Intelligence with the *Scots* to embroil the Affairs in *England* and *Scotland*.

Never did King more value himself upon his Honour, nor any Man more mistake it; for *Honour* is the *Estimation of the Power of another, conjoin'd with Goodness*; and the Majesty and Honour of a Prince is founded in the Love and Obedience of his Subjects; which this Prince misplacing upon his Wife and Minions, lost it over his Subjects; And now his Loyal Subjects in *England* are overcome; must even in *England* trust himself with the *Scots* upon whom he could no more rely, than the *English* could upon his manifold Declarations *for maintaining the Protestant Religion, the Laws of the Land, and Freedom of Parliament.*

The Scots having got the King, resolve to make double Market of him, viz. to have him sent to *Montrose* to disband his Army, and retire out of *Scotland*, and then to sell him to the Parliament in *England*, for so much as they could get. Of *Montrose* it was no sooner ask'd than granted by the King; but *Montrose* was no sooner gone, but the Covenanters seize the Marquis of *Huntly* then in Arms for the King, and cut off his Head.

But the Bargain for Sale of the King being a mighty matter to the Scots, requir'd a longer time, and the Scots would not lose one *Scottish* Pound they could get for him; and therefore, tho' the King put himself into the Power of the Scots the 5th of *May* in 1646. yet the Bargain was not concluded till *January* following; and then the Scots, flush of Money, return home, finding all things in Peace, now *Montrose* is gone; and the Parliament having bought the King, confine him to *Holdenby-House*, an House of the King's in *Northamptonshire*, under the Guard of a select Company of Covenanters, whereof *Sir John Cook*, Secretary *Cook's* Son, was one.

Thus this Prince, who before had shifted the worthy Members of Parliament from one Prison to another, that they might have no Benefit of their *Habeas-Corpus's*, and the Constables of *Hertfordshire* from one Messenger to another, is himself shifted from one place a Prisoner to another, without any hope of a *Habeas-Corpus*: He that before by his *Absolute Will and Pleasure*, would without any Law seize his Subjects Goods; and commit them to Prison, cannot now enjoy his own Estate in his own House: He that before arbitrarily raised Ship-Mony, has not now one Ship to command.

The Castastrophe of this Tragedy resolves into the King himself; for this *Juncto* after called the *Rump-Parliament*; having thus purged the House, assume to themselves the Supream Power of Ordering the *English* Affairs, confirm the Vote of Non-Addresses

dresses to the King, and race the Votes of having a Conference with the King, and the Declaration that the the King's Concessions were sufficient Ground for a Peace, out of the Journals of the House; and vote, first, That all Power resides in the People. 2dly, That the Power belongs to the Peoples Representatives in the House of Commons. 3dly, That the Votes of the Commons have the Force of a Law without the King. 4thly, That to take Arms against the Representatives of the People, or the Parliament, is High-Treason. 5thly, That the King himself took up Arms against the Parliament, and therefore is guilty of all the Blood shed in this Civil War, and ought by his own Blood to expiate it.

The Regicides, to put the best Face they could upon this audacious Act, send the Bill for Tryal of the King up to the Lords for their Concurrence; but so far were the Lords from concurring, that they threw the Bill over the Bar. Hereupon the *Rump* vote the Lords Dangerous and Useless; yet *Henry Martin* said, They were Useless, but not Dangerous. Then the *Rumpers* advise with the Judges about Tryal of the King, who unanimously declare it against Law, and the *Scots* Commissioner protest against it. But neither Authority, Law, nor Reason would take place with those Men; so they erect a new Court, never heard of before, call'd *An High Court of Justice for Tryal of the King*, to consist of (I think) Seventy) two thirds of which were Soldiers, who charge the King with Treason, Tyranny, and Murder, for raising War against the Parliament and People of *England*.

The King, now too late, flies to the Laws of the Land for his Protection, protests against the Jurisdiction of the Court, as establish'd by no Legal Authority, and declares his Life was not so dear to him, as his *Honour* and *Conscience*, and the *Laws and Liberties of his People*; and that he will lose his Life rather than submit to such a tyrannical Court.

And at last the *King* desir'd to be heard before the Lords and Commons, in some things which concern'd the Peace of the Kingdom, and Liberty of the Subjects: But this too was denied: And so the 4th Day after his Appearance, *Bradshaw*, the President, gave Sentence upon him to lose his Head, all the Court, to the number of Sixty-seven, owning it, by standing up.

So that as *K. John*, and his Son *Henry* the 3d. lost all *Normandy*, and the greatest part of *Aquitain* to the *French*, by endeavouring a more than Legal Jurisdiction over their Subjects, whereby they lost their Love and Obedience; so these two Princes, *James* and *Charles* I. by raising Arbitrary Power over their Subjects, not only lost their Honour abroad, but with their own Subjects; and for want of their Assistance, *Charles* I. lost his Life; and suffer'd the *French* to grow so Great, as to endanger the Safety of their own Subjects in the Realms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

I find no reason to disbelieve Bishop *Bramhall*, and Dr. *Du-Moulin*, who offer Proofs, 'That King *Charles* I.'s Death was but in pursuance of Popish Councils. 'Tis true, such Jacobite Priests as *S—rell* and *W—ton* do affirm the contrary; but this is a Secret I am able to prove to your Majesty by Authors of undoubted Credit.

After all this PLAIN ENGLISH spoke of the unhappy Reign of *Charles* I. I must affirm to your Majesty, he lived and died a sincere Protestant, (if we may believe that SOLEMN PROTESTATION which he made at *Oxford* during the Civil War, of which more anon) and was a Prince of such Excellent Morals, that he declar'd on the Scaffold on which he was barbarously murder'd by his own Subjects, 'That he had always been so true to his Marriage-Bed, that he had never once stray'd from his Wife in Thought, Word, or Deed.

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But tho' *King Charles I.* was thus CHAST and Pious, his dearly-beloved Queen was so notorious for her Adultery with *Henry G——man*, (the very Picture of *Charles the II.*) that 'twould render this *Secret History of our Martyr* imperfect, to leave out a Discovery in which his *matchless Chastity* was so ill requited; yet my PLAIN ENGLISH must do that Justice to this *Popish Queen*, as to inform your Majesty, That she underwent the severe Penance of walking bare-foot from Tyburn to Somerset-House for only conversing with her lawful Husband at such Times as her Priests had forbid it. Which severe Penance may seem improbable in a Queen of her haughty Temper, but 'tis affirm'd to be Matter of Fact by Persons of Credit that are yet living, that saw it with their own Eyes.

The Anarchy which follow'd the unhappy Death of *Charles I.* is a large Blot in our Annals. The wisest of *Cromwell's* Counsellors saw, that this Government could not subsist without *Kingly Power*. And tho' his Reputation and Policy for a while kept up the Protectorship or Regency, 'tis a Question whether the then *K. of Scots* would not have turn'd him out if he had liv'd a little longer. However the Determination of his Power, or any lucky Accident to the *King*, naturally made way for the others assuming the Regal Authority, yet while *Charles* was out of Possession, many of those who upon his Return made the greatest Boasts of Loyalty, had either drawn their Swords against him, or servilely flatter'd the Usurper.

Faith, Truth, and Piety, are rarely found in Men who follow Camps: The Army, who in their Remonstrance would have the Parliament dissolved, and another called which might settle the Nation, now they had got the *Rump* to be their Head, whereby they may share the Church, Crown-Lands, and Delinquents Estates among themselves, regard neither Parliament nor Nation. And sure, never was there

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In a Generation of Hypocrites, who so impudently
brav'd Truth, and all that may be called Sacred.
we could force a Belief into them, they first told
they fought for *King* and Parliament, then
declared for the *King* and People, against the
Parliament; and now they have murder'd the *King*,
we will have any Benefit of their Protection, we
will engage to their Government, without *King*,
House of Lords, and be content with a piece of
the *Commons*, call'd the *Rump*.

Not content with the Murder of the *King*, they
proceed to murder *Monarchy*, and place the Original
Power of Government in the People, whose Repre-
sentatives they are, if we'll take their Word, and
call'd it High Treason to restore Monarchy, or to
assist or pray for *Charles Stuart*, or any of that Line,
to overthrow the *King's* Statue with an *Exit Tyrannus*,
ignum ultimus. Nor are they satiated with the
Blood of the *King*, but erect another High Court of
justice, whereof one *Lisle* an ignorant Fellow was
President, who condemns the Marquis *Hamilton*,
Earl of *Holland*, and Lord *Capel*, for raising Arms
against the Parliament, which themselves had de-
stroy'd.

But tho' the *Rump* and Army were establish'd
upon these accursed Principles, yet being the Instru-
ments of Divine Vengeance, like a Torrent broke
loose from raging Seas, in less than five Years time,
they overwhelm not only *England*, but *Ireland* and
Scotland, almost pull'd the *Dutch States* up by the
Ears, and made *France* and *Spain* tremble.—And
this brings me in the next place to detect the Usur-
pation of *Oliver Cromwell*; of whom the least I can
say is, If all the Hypocrisy and Dissimulation of the
Rump could be crowded into one Man, it might be
found in this one *Oliver*; so unacquainted with
Truth, that, unless to his own Creatures, he was
only to be understood in Reverse. Never were three
divided Nations so tamely-riden by so-mean a Beggar.

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It's true, that sometimes this Nation hath changed their *Kings* to preserve its Liberties and Constitutions, but then it exalted one of the Blood-Royal (which is more than can be said of the *Caroline* and *Capitular* Lines of *France*) to preserve them ; whereas this Fellow, uncall'd by the Nation, but by an Army rais'd by his Master, twice depos'd by his overthrows the Laws, Liberties and Constitution of the Nation, to make way for his Usurpation and Tyranny.

The first Manifesto which he publish'd after the Dissolution of the Rump, was under the Title of *I Oliver, General of all the Forces in England, Scotland and Ireland, by the Advice of the Officers of the Army.* I confess I was stunn'd at the Arrogance of it ; yet in this Tune he whistled to 144 of his own Gang and Nomination, (which was twelve-fold more than the Tribes of *Israel*) to be the Representatives of the Nation ; and upon these, he tells them, *devolves the Supream Power of the Nation*, yet allows them but Six Months time to sit ; This was the 4th July 1653.

This Thing calls it self a *Parliament* too, and because *Praise-God Barebone* (a Leatherfeller) was famous Member in it, 'twas call'd *Barebone's Parliament*, which chose one *Rouse* to be their Speaker.

If all Memory of the *Old Babel* were lost, it might be found in the Babble of these Enthusiasticks ; their Prate was of making way for *Christ's Monchy upon Earth*, which they were sure was not off, now they were got together to meet here. They pronounce Priesthood, Popery ; to pay Tytle *Judaism* ; the Laws of *England*, *Remains of the Roman Yoke* ; Schools and Colleges, *Heathenish Semeries of curious and vain Learning* ; Nobility and Honours, *contrary to the Law of Nature and Christian*

However, because *Oliver* had been so kind as to make them a Parliament, they, in return, will ne make him *Protector of the Common-Wealth of E*

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d, Scotland, and Ireland (for *King*, Good Man, would not be) as appears by his Speech to the Parliament when he refus'd the Title of *King*, which is this following, *viz.*

Mr. Speaker,

May 8. 1657.

Come hither to give an Answer to your last Paper by the Committee that you sent to me, which was in relation to the Desires that were offer'd to me by the House, in what they call'd *their petition*. I confess, the Business hath put the Parliament to a great deal of Trouble; it hath spent much Time, and I am very sorry for that: It hath cost me some Thoughts; And because I have been an unhappy Occasion of the Expence of so much money, I shall spend little of it now. I have (the best I can) revolv'd the whole Business of a *King* in my Thoughts, and I have said so much already to show my Dislike of the Regal Trust, that I think I shall not need to repeat any thing that I have said. I believe this is a Government that (in the Aims of it) seeks the setting the Nation upon a good Foot in relation to Civil Rights and Liberties, which are the Rights of the Nation; and I hope I shall never be found to be one of them that shall go about to rob the Nation of those Rights, but to serve them (what can) to the attaining of them. It is also exceeding well provided there for the Safety and Security of honest Men, that great natural and religious Liberty, which is *Liberty of Conscience*; these are the great Fundamentals; and I must bear my Testimony to them, (as I have and shall do still as long as God shall me live in this World) That the Instructions and the Things are very honourable and honest, and the Product worthy of a Parliament. I have only to add the Unhappiness, both in my Conferences with your Committee, and in the best Thoughts I could

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take to my self, not to be convinced of the Necessity of that Thing, that hath been so often insisted upon by you (to wit) That the Title of King tho' in it self so necessary, (as it seems to be apprehended by your selves) and yet I do with Honour and Respect to the Judgment of a Parliament testify, That (*ceteris paribus*) no private Judgment is to lie in the Ballance with the Judgment of a Parliament; but in things that respect particular Persons, every Man that is to give an Account to God of his Actions, he must (in some measure) be able to prove his own Work, and to have an approbation to his own Conscience of what he is to do, or to forbear; and whilst you are granting of others Liberty, surely you will not deny me this, it being not only Liberty, but a Duty, and such a Duty as I cannot (without Sinning) forbear (to wit) To examine my own Heart, and Thoughts, and Judgment, in every Work that I am to set my Hand to, or to appear in for. I have truly thought, and do still think, that if I should do any thing upon this account to answer your Expectation under the Title of King (the best) it would be doubtfully. And certainly whatsoever is so, is not of Faith; and whatsoever is not of Faith, is Sin to him that doth it, whether it be with relation to the Substance of the Actions about which their Consideration is exercis'd, or whether to Circumstances about it, which make all different Actions good or evil to him that doth it. Lying under this Consideration, do heartily wish I had given my Answer sooner, for your sakes, and the saving your Time and Trouble, and indeed for the Committee's sake, towards whom I must acknowledge publicly, I have been unreasonably Troublesome: I say, I could have wished I had given my Answer sooner; but truly this is my Answer now. That although I think the Government doth consist of very excellent Things in all but in that one Thing the Title of King; yet I should not be
hon

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honest Man, if I should not tell you, that *I cannot accept of the Government*, nor undertake the Trouble and Charge of it, (which I have a little more experienced than every Body, what Trouble and Difficulties do befall Men under such Trusts, and in such Undertakings) I say, I am perswaded to return this Answer to you, *That I cannot undertake this Government with the Title of King.* And that is my Answer to this great and weighty Business.

This (GREAT SIR) was *the Protector's Speech to the Parliament, in the Year 1657. when he refus'd the Title of King*, and is here printed from an *Original Manuscript* which I obtain'd from a Reverend Divine of great Integrity, who assur'd me, this *Speech* had never been printed before, and is therefore inserted in this place, to set *the Secret History of Oliver's Usurpation in a better Light.* And the truth is, *Oliver's Government* stood upon such a rotten Foundation, that (*tho' his Usurpation lasted but five Years*) he'd scarce have been able to have kept the PROTECTORSHIP for so long a time, had it not been for such *deecitful Speeches* and *mean Submissions* as these. And therefore, before I present your Majesty with *the Secret History of the Restoration of Charles 2d.* 'twill be necessary I make some further Discoveries concerning *Oliver*, and the TRUE CAUSES of the Civil War in the Reign of *Charles the First*, which had never seen the Light, but by means of that Reverend DEAN from whose Pen I receiv'd 'em. And seeing neither Dr. *S_____rell*, *Hi_____gins*, *W_____ton*, nor any of our High-Church-Men, have ever yet, (upon their general Madding-Day, the 30th of *January*) given the World a True Account of the Civil War in *England*, I'll now present your Majesty with such *New Discoveries* concerning it, as I'll prove to be Matter of Fact by that Venerable Person from whom I receiv'd 'em, if your Majesty is pleas'd to command it of me, or
doubt

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doubt the Truth of any Part of the Discoveries, which contain a great deal of PLAIN ENGLISH; I having Authority from the Writings of my Reverend Author, to inform your Majesty, that the True and Secret Causes of the Civil War in 41, were chiefly these.

I. *A French Interest and Alliance; and from thence arising,*

II. *The Apprehensions and Fears of Popery; which led on,*

III. *The Jealousies of Oppression and illegal Power; which tended more and more to,*

IV. *The Growth of Profaneness and Immorality; and even this help'd to produce,*

V. *That Hypocrisy and Perfidiousness which occasion'd the barbarous Murder of Charles I.*

First then, one principal Cause of the Civil War, was a *French Interest and Alliance.*

There was, we know not how, that Frame and Constitution in our Ancestors, that their *true English Hearts* had continually some secret Aversion, I might say, some Antipathy to that Neighbouring Nation. *England and France, like Rome and Carthage,* stood always Jealous and Rivalling of one another.

The *Old English* Aversion seems to have begun with the *Norman Conquest*, when our good Forefathers, then lately secured by the best Laws and Liberties in the World, were invaded and subdued by a *Pretender from France*; and they soon felt that Foreign Yoke to be so hard and grievous, that they would gladly have shaken it off; but the more Patience they were forced to, the more they hated those insolent new Lords and Masters, calling often for their old Liberties, and the Laws of *K. Edward*. Oppression might well make a good-natur'd People very angry and averse, when, as *Solomon* observeth, *Surely Oppression maketh a Wise-Man mad.*

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This Anger, and sort of Aversion to the *French*, did continue fixed and rooted in the Minds, in the bottom of the Hearts of our Right *English* Fore-Fathers; and truly, we must degenerate far from those good Fore-Fathers, before we can altogether remove that Natural Distast to a *French* Power; at least, none can be fond of it, whose Principles and Blood are not corrupted.

It was this inbred Spirit of Emulation that so often led our *English* Armies into the Bowels of *France*, and in the Reprisals of Honour, conquer'd that Kingdom more than once; but never once more suffer'd *this* Kingdom to be conquer'd by the *French*, and surely never will suffer it, while the *English* Name remains.

It was on this Principle that our *English* People never could heartily approve any Royal Match into the Court of *France*; and whenever any such Match was entred into by our former Governours, it seems to have been against *the Genius of the People*, and therefore fatally against the Interest of those Princes. I might give an Instance in two of the most unfortunate Reigns, those of King *Edward* the Second, and King *Richard* the Second, whose Marriages into that Court had the Consequence of a calamitous Life, and an untimely Death, to both of those unfortunate Princes.

There was somewhat of the like pernicious Influence that occasion'd the Civil War. Our Royal Martyr, by taking a Royal Consort from the *Bourbon* Family, did apparently bring over some Evils and Mischiefs that disturb'd his whole Reign: For within less than one Year, the *French* Servants of that Queen grew so Imperious and so Insolent, that the King was forced to discharge them, and to humble them by a Return into their own Country; This at first created some Diffidence between their Majesties, and soon fomented a War between the two Kingdoms. To be SHORT with your Majesty, it was
this

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this Match that began to corrupt our Nation with *French* Modes and Vanities, to betray our Counsels to the *French* Court, to weaken the poor Protestants in *France*, nay, and to lessen our own Trade and Navigation. These ill Effects, beyond the King's Intention, raised such a Jealousy, and spread such a Damp upon the *English* Subjects, that it was unhappily turn'd into *one of the unjust Occasions of the Civil War.*

The Civil War, indeed, began more out of Hatred to that *French* Party, than out of any Disaffection to the King, which is a Secret our High-Church-Men have knavishly conceal'd to this very Day, but is a great Truth; for the People thought themselves too much under *French* Counsels and a *French* Ministry, or else they could never have been drawn aside into that *Great Rebellion.* This Interest, when suspected to prevail, brought the King into urgent Difficulties, and in the midst of them, the Aid and Assistance which that Interest offer'd him, did but the more effectually weaken him. On this Side the Water, the *French* Services betray'd him; and on the other Side, the *French* Policies were secretly at work to destroy him. How far the Intrigues of *Mazarine* were in Concert with the Designs of *Crommel*, as they have been a Secret for Sixty Years, 'tis hoped the Discovery I shall now make to your Majesty of those Intrigues, will set the Civil War in a better Light than it has yet stood in.

And therefore, as *Esau's* taking to Wife an Alien and Stranger, is said to have been a Grief of Mind to *Isaac* and *Rebekah*, Gen. xxvi. 35. and as *Rebekah* was so much afraid lest her Son *Jacob* should make the like unsuitable Match, that she said unto her Husband, *I am weary of my Life, because of the Daughters of Heth, if Jacob take a Wife of the Daughter of Heth, what good shall my Life do me?* So likewise many tender Lovers of their Faith and Country might well deplore the Unhappiness of that Alliance

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Alliance with *France*, which gave no small Occasion to the Calamities and the Curse of a Civil War; for it was from hence that did arise.

2dly, *The Apprehensions and Fears of Popery.*

Popery, that irreconcilable Enemy, not only to our Reformed Faith and Worship, but to our *Civil Rights, Liberties and Properties, to our Establish'd Laws, and to all our settled Constitution.*

It was for this wise and good Reason that our first Reformers would never bear with any express Toleration of Popery; nor with any long Connivance at it. That excellent young *Josiah*, King *Edward* the 6th, would not dispense with his own *Sister* to have *Publick Mass* in her own Family; but denied unto Tears all the Importunity that labour'd to extort a Licence from him. Queen *Elizabeth* indulged them no longer than while there was some Hopes to reclaim them; when she found them inventing and obtruding a Successor of their own Heart's Desire, and corresponding abroad for Counsels and Aids, and by all Ways and Means labouring to reduce *England* into Bondage under *Rome*, then she spared not to preserve her Royal Person, and to protect her People by the Laws, and a steady Execution of them. It was this Wisdom and Firmness of Resolution that made up the Peace and the Glory of that Reign. Her next Successor, King *James*, was a Champion against Popery, and strenuously oppos'd it; both a wise Governor, and as learned a Writer; and this gave Peace and Happiness to the greatest part of this wise Administration: But when, toward the decline of it, he fell into a Treaty for a Match with *Spain*, and during that Treaty, did in a manner suspend the Laws against the Papists, and gave his Subjects an Occasion to believe, that *one Article of that Match was to be the Toleration of Popery*; This gave such universal Jealousy and Discontent to his People, and the Parliament of 'eni, that it threaten'd apparent Danger; and if that Treaty had not

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broke

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broke off, and thereby eased the Minds of People,
we have great Reason to think (and I shall speak it
in PLAIN ENGLISH) *there had been a Civil War*
in the Reign of King James I.

For certainly his Royal Son *Charles* the Martyr,
might justly impute many of his Troubles to these
Fears and Jealousies of Popery. And they really
began with the *French Alliance*, where one Article
was, *To have a Publick Chappel, and Priests and Mass*
for the Queen and her Household ; the first Marriage-
Article of that kind since the Reformation, and
therefore at the first Essay, fatal to a good King and
his three Kingdoms. For this gave an Opportunity
of open Resort to all Papists, Foreigners, and Na-
tives: This gave Shelter and Protection to Swarms
of Jesuits and other Emissaries from *Rome*: This
gain'd an Interest at Court for *Pardons*, and for Pa-
tents of Profit and Preferment, to the leading *Ro-*
man Catholicks. This brought over one or two Nun-
cio's from the Pope to attend upon the Queen. In
short, this did give Countenance to Popery, and
therefore did cast a Damp and Dread upon many
sincere Protestants ; and did put them into such ter-
rible Apprehension of the *Romans coming to take a-*
way their Place and Nation ; that this strength of
Fear too much began the Civil War, and help'd to
carry it forward to the Innocent and Sacred Blood-
shed upon the 30th of *January*.

These Doubts and Fears of *Popery* lost an Ortho-
dox and most regular Prince the Hearts of too ma-
ny of his People ; and almost rob'd him of the next
valuable Blessing, his *Good Name*. For upon his ten-
der Compliances with his entirely beloved Royal
Consort, his Enemies took advantage to misrepres-
ent him for a *Papist*. Tho' this was a Calumny false
and malicious: In his most private Letters to the
Queen, when He rejoiced to agree in all things with
her, he even then expressly excepted their *Difference*
in Religion: He made a *Solemn Protestation at the Sa-*
crament,

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crament, of his *Stedfastness in the Faith and Communion of our Church*: and on the very Scaffold, he sealed the same good Profession with his last Breath and Blood. But because this *Solemn Protestation of King Charles the First, before his receiving the Sacrament*, is so great a RARITY, that few Persons that are now living, have seen it, I'll here present Your Majesty with an *exact Copy of his Protestation, and of The Prayer that was frequently said for the King, in the Time of the Civil War, by all Loyal Subjects*, which *Protestation and Prayer* were introduc'd with the following Words, *viz.*

That the Mouths of all Schismatical and Seditious Persons may be stopped (who endeavour to bring their Sovereign into Hatred with his People, by scandalizing his Sacred Majesty, with a Purpose to alter our Religion, and introduce *Popery*) here is publish'd to the View of all the World, his Majesty's *solemn Protestation* (which he made in the Presence of God and the Congregation, before he received the Blessed Sacrament) at *Christ's-Church in Oxford, 1643.* which neither Adversity nor Prosperity can ever make him violate.

His Majesty's late Protestation, before his receiving of the Sacrament.

His Majesty being to receive the Sacrament from the Hands of the Archbishop of Armagh, used these Publick Expressions immediately before; He rose up from his Knees, and beckening to the Archbishop for a short Forbearance, made this Protestation.

MY Lord, I espy here many resolved Protestants, who may declare to the World the Resolution I do now make. I have to the utmost of my Power prepared my Soul to become a worthy Receiver; and may I so receive Comfort by this Holy Communion, as I do intend the Establishment of the true Reform-