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HIS
MAJESTIES
ANSWER

To the PETITION which accompanied the DECLARATION
of the House of COMMONS:

Presented to Him at *Hampton-Court*,
the first of December. 1641.



LONDON:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to
the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And by
the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
MDCXLI.

annexed thereunto, We had taken some time to consider of it, as befitted Us in a matter of that consequence, being confident, that your own reason and regard to Us, as well as Our expresse intimation by Our Comptroller to that purpose, would have restrained you from the publishing of it, till such time, as you should have received Our Answer to it: But, much against Our expectation, finding the contrary, that the said Declaration is already abroad in Print, by directions from your House, as appears by the printed Copy; We must let you know that We are very sensible of the disrespect. Notwithstanding, it is Our Intention, that no failing on your
part,

part, shall make **Us** fail in **Ours**, of giving all due satisfaction to the desires of **Our** people, in a Parliamentary way ; **And** therefore **We** send you this **Answer** to your **Petition**, reserving **Our** self in point of the **Declaration**, which **We** think unparliamentary, and shall take a course to do that which **We** shall think fit in prudence and honour:

To the **Petition**, **We** say; that although there are divers things in the **Preamble** of it, which **We** are so far from admitting, that **We** professe **We** cannot at all understand them, as, *Of a wicked and malignant party prevalent in the Government ; Of some of that party admitted to Our Privie Councell,*

and to other Imployments of trust, and
 necest to Us and Our Children ; Of
 Endeavours to sowe among the Peo-
 ple false scandals and imputations,
 to blemish and disgrace the Proceed-
 ings of the Parliament : All, or
 any of which, did VVe know of,
 VVe should be as ready to reme-
 dy and punish, as you to complain
 of. That the Prayers of your Pe-
 tition are grounded upon such Pre-
 misses as VVe must in no wise ad-
 mit ; yet notwithstanding VVe
 are pleased to give this Answer to
 you.

To the first concerning Religi-
 on, consisting of severall branches,
 VVe say, that for the preserving the
 Peace and Safety of the Kingdom
 from the designs of the Popish
 partie,

partie, VVe have, and will still concur with all the just desires of Our people in a Parliamentarie way; That for the depriving of the Bishops of their Votes in Parliament, VVe would have you consider, that their right is grounded upon the fundamentall Law of the Kingdom, and constitution of Parliament; This VVe would have you consider, but since you desire Our concurrence herein in a Parliamentary way, VVe will give no further answer at this time.

As for the abridging of the inordinate power of the Clergy, VVe conceive that the taking away of the high Commission Court hath well moderated that, but if there continue any Usurpations, or
Ex-

Excesses in their Jurisdictions,
 We therein neither have nor will
 protect them.

Unto that Clause which concerneth Corruptions (as you stile them) in Religion, in Church-government, and in Discipline, and the removing of such unnecessary Ceremonies as weak Consciences might cheque at. That for any illegal Innovations which may have crept in, We shall willingly concur in the removall of them. That if Our Parliament shall advise Us to call a Nationall Synod, which may duly examine such Ceremonies as give just cause of offence to any, We shall take it into consideration, and apply Our Self to give due satisfaction therein; But
 We

We are very sorry to hear in
 such generall terms, Corruption in
 Religion objected, since We are
 perswaded in Our conscience, that
 no Church can be found upon the
 earth that professeth the true Re-
 ligion with more purity of Do-
 ctine then the Church of *England*
 doth, nor where the Government
 and Discipline are joyntly more
 beautified, and free from superstiti-
 on, then as they are here establish-
 ed by Law, which (by the grace
 of God) We will with Con-
 stancy maintain (while We live)
 in their Puritie and Glory, not on-
 ly against all invasions of Popery,
 but also from the irreverence of
 those many Schismaticks and Se-
 paratists, wherewith of late this
 B Kingdom

Kingdom and this City abounds, to the great dishonour and hazard both of Church and State; for the suppression of whom VVe require your timely and active assistance.

To the second prayer of the Petition, concerning the removall and choice of Councillours, VVe know not any of Our Councell to whom the Character set forth in the Petition can belong. That by those whom VVe had exposed to triall, VVe have already given you sufficient testimony, that there is no man so neer unto Us in place or affection, whom VVe will not leave to the Justice of the Law, if you shall bring a particular charge and sufficient proofs against him;
and

and of this **W**e do again assure you, but in the mean time **W**e wish you to forbear such generall aspersions as may reflect upon all Our Councell, since you name none in particular.

That for the choice of Our Councillours and Ministers of State, it were to debar Us that naturall libertie all Free-men have, and it is the undoubted right of the Crown of *England*, to call such persons to Our Secret Councils, to publike imployment, and Our particular service, as **W**e shall think fit, so **W**e are, and ever shall be very carefull to make election of such persons in those places of trust, as shall have given good testimonies of their abilities and integrity,

and against whom there can be no just cause of exception whereon reasonably to ground a diffidence; and to choices of this nature VVe assure you that the mediation of the neereſt unto Us hath alwayes concurred.

To the third Prayer of your Petition concerning *Ireland*, VVe understand your desire of not alienating the forfeited Lands thereof, to proceed from your much care and love; And likewise that it may be a Resolution very fit for Us to take, but whether it be seasonable to declare Resolutions of that nature before the events of a war be seen, that VVe much doubt of. Howsoever, VVe cannot but thank you for this care, and your
cheer-

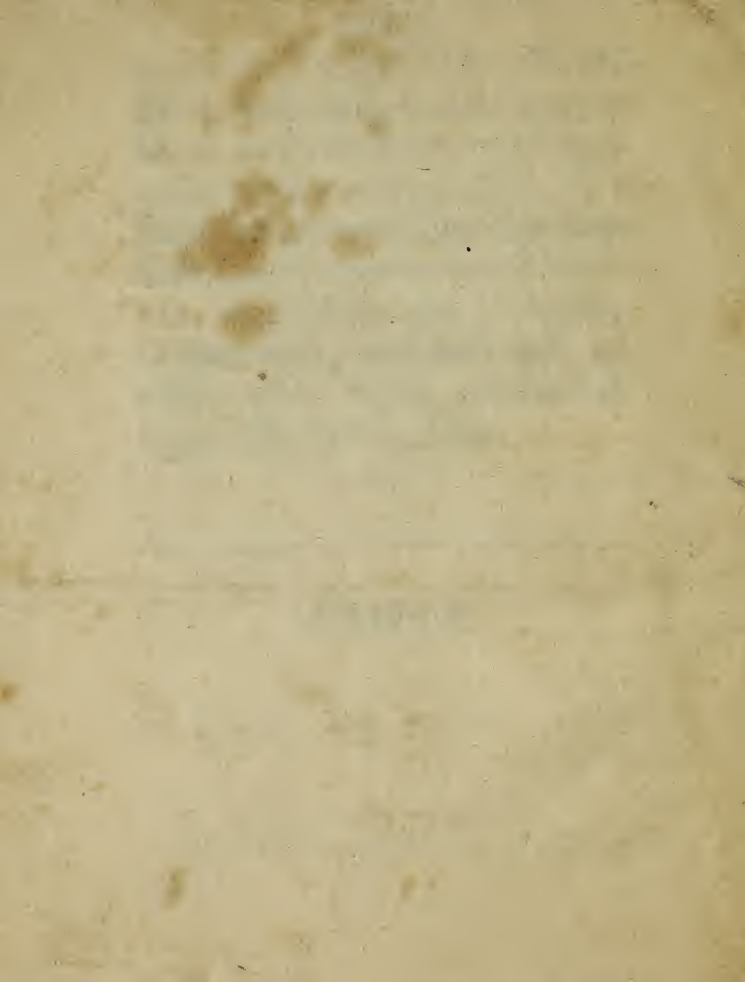
cheerfull ingagement for the suppression of that Rebellion; upon the speedy effecting whereof, the glory of God in the Protestant Profession, the safety of the British there, Our honour, and that of the Nation so much depends; all the Interests of this Kingdom being so involved in that businesse, We cannot but quicken your affections therein, and shall desire you to frame your Councils, and to give such expedition to the work, as the nature thereof, and the pressures in point of time requires, and whereof you are put in minde by the daily insolence and increase of those Rebels.

For Conclusion, your promise to apply your selves to such cour-

ses as may support Our Royall
 Estate with Honour and Plenty at
 home, and with Power and Reputa-
 tion abroad, is that which VVe
 have ever promised Our Self, both
 from your Loyalties and Affecti-
 ons, and also for what VVe have
 already done, and shall daily go
 adding unto, for the comfort and
 happinesse of Our people.

FINIS.







TREASURE
ROOM