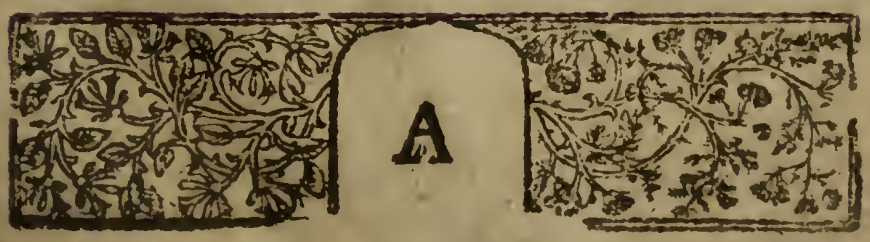
A

HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION,

Touching his proceedings in the *late Assemblie and Conuention* of Parliament.

Imprinted at London by BONHAM NORTON and IOHN BILL, Printers to the Kings most Excellent MAIESTIE. 1621.

HIS MAIESTIES Declaration, touching his proceedings in the late Assembly and *Conuention of Parliament.*

HAuing of late, vpon mature deliberation, with the aduice and vniforme consent of Our whole Priuie Councell, determined to dissolue the Assembly and Conuention of Parliament, lately called together by Our Regall power and Authoritie, Wee were pleased by Our Proclamation, giuen at Our Palace of *Westminster* the sixt day of this instant *Ianuary*, to declare, not onely Our pleasure and resolution

therein, but alſo to expreſſe ſome eſpeciall paſſages and proceedings, moouing vs to that reſolution: Wherein, albeit hauing ſo many yeeres ſwayed the ſwords and ſcepters of three renowned kingdomes, Wee cannot but diſcerne (as much as any Prince liuing) what apperteineth to the height of a powerfull Monarch: yet, that all men might diſcerne, that Wee, like Gods true Vicegerent, delight not ſo much in the greatneſſe of Our place, as in the goodneſſe & benignitie of our gouernment, We were content in that one Act to deſcend many degrees beneath Our Selfe: Firſt, by communicating to all Our people the reaſons of a reſolution of State, which Princes vſe to reſerue, *inter arcana Imperij*, to themſelues and their Priuie Councell: Secondly, by mollifying and mixing the peremptorie and binding qualitie of a Proclamation, with the indulgence of a milde and fatherly inſtruction: And laſtly, leading them, and opening to them that forbidden Arke of Our abſolute and indiſputable Prerogatiue, concerning the calling, continuing,

 and

and diſſoluing of Parliaments : which, though it were more then ſuperabundant to make Our Subiects know the realitie of Our ſincere intentions; yet Wee not ſatiſfied therewith, but finding the bounds of a Proclamation too ſtraight to conteine and expreſſe the boundleſſe affection that Wee beare to Our good and louing people, are pleaſed hereby to inlarge Our Selfe, (as Wee promiſed in Our ſaid Proclamation) by a more full and plaine expreſſion of thoſe Letters and Meſſages that paſſed from Vs to the Commons in Parliament, which by reaſon of the length of them, could not bee related at large, but briefly pointed at in Our ſaid Proclamation. For, as in generall the great actions of Kings are done as vpon a ſtage, obuious to the publike gazing of euery man; ſo are Wee moſt willing, that the trueth of this particular, concerning Our owne honour, and the ſatisfaction of Our Subiects, ſhould bee repreſented vnto all men without vaile or couering, being aſſured that the moſt plainneſſe and freedome will moſt aduantage

Vs,

Vs, hauing in this, and all Our Actions euer affected ſuch ſinceritie and vprightnes of heart, as were Wee all tranſparent, and that men might readily paſſe to Our inward thoughts, they ſhould there perceiue the ſelfe-ſame affections which Wee haue euer profeſſed in Our outward words and Actions.

Hauing anticipated the time of reaſſembling Our Parliament to the twentieth day of *Nouember* laſt, (which Wee formerly appointed to haue met vpon the eighth of *February* next,) vpon the confidence that their noble and generous declaration at their parting the fourth of *Iune* put vs in, of their free and liberall aſſiſtance to the recouery of Our Childrens ancient inheritance; and hauing declared to them Our reſolution of taking vpon Vs the defence of Our childrens patrimonie by way of Armes, the Commons very heartily and dutifully fell immediatly after their reaſſembling, to treat of a neceſſary ſupplie, and concluded, for the preſent, to grant a Subſidie to be paid in *February* next, (the

laſt

laſt paiment of the latter Subſidie granted by them being not to come in vntill *May* following) whereby Wee were well and cleerly ſatisfied of the good intentiõ of the Commons in generall, by whoſe vniforme vote & aſſent that Subſidy was reſolued on, not without intimation of a more ample ſupplie to be yeelded in conuenient time.

But before this their reſolution was reduced into a formall Acte or Bill, ſome diſcontented perſons that were the cauſe of all that euill which ſucceeded, endeauouring to clog the good will of the Commons with their owne vnreaſonable ends, fell to diſpute in the Houſe of Our high Prerogatiues, namely of the match of Our deareſt ſonne the Prince, of the making warre with forreigne Princes Our Allies, betweene whom and Vs there was a firme peace religiouſly made and obſerued hitherunto: All which they couered with the cloake of Religion, and with the faire pretence of a duetifull Petition to bee preferred to Vs. Wee vnderſtanding right well, that thoſe points were not diſputable

inParliament, without Our owne Royall direction, being of Our higheſt Prerogatiues, the very Characters of Souereignty; & thinking, that when euery Subiect by nature, and the Lawes of the Realme, had the power of matching their children according to their owne beſt liking, none ſhould denie Vs the like; eſpecially Wee hauing at the beginning of the Parliament declared Our purpoſe concerning the matching of Our Sonne, the Prince, were fully perſwaded, that thoſe ſpecious outſides of Religion and humble petitioning, were added onely to gaine paſſage vnto thoſe things, which being propounded in their true colours, muſt needs haue appeared vniuſt and vnreaſonable, as matters wherewith neuer any Parliament had preſumed to meddle before, except they had bene thereunto required by their King; nay, not befitting Our Priuie Councell to meddle with, without Our ſpeciall command and allowance; ſince the very conſulting vpon ſuch matters (though in neuer ſo priuate a maner) being diſcouered abroad, might

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at ſome time produce as ill effects, as if they were publikely reſolued vpon. For as concerning the point of Religion, We aſwell in the beginning of the Parliament, by a publike and open Declaration made to both Houſes in the higher Houſe of Parliament, as alſo ſhortly after, by a gracious anſwere vnto a former Petition of theirs, expreſſed to the full Our immutable reſolution to maintaine true Religion, beſides the vntainted practiſe of Our whole life in that point. And howſoeuer an humble Petition beare a faire ſhew of reſpect; yet if vnder colour of concluding on a Petition, a way ſhould bee opened to treat in Parliament of the myſteries of State, without Our Royall allowance, it were a great and vnuſuall breach vpon the Royall power: Beſides, who knoweth not that the preferring of a Petition, includes an expectation to haue it graunted? and therefore to nippe this ſpringing euill in the beginning, Wee directed Our Letters to the Speaker of that Houſe, the tenour of which Letters followeth.

Aſter Speaker, *Wee haue heard by diuers reports to Our great griefe, That the farre diſtance of Our Perſon at this time from Our high Court of Parliament, cauſed by Our want of health, hath emboldened ſome fiery and popular ſpirits in Our Houſe of Commons, to debate and argue publikely, in matters farre beyond their reach or capacitie, and ſo tending to Our high diſhonour, and to the trenching vpon Our Prerogatiue Royall. You ſhall therefore acquaint that houſe with Our pleaſure, That none therein ſhall henceforth preſume to meddle with any thing concerning Our gouernment, or myſteries of State; namely, not to ſpeake of Our dearest*

Sonnes

Sonnes Match with the Daughter of Spaine, *nor to touch the Honour of that King, or any other Our friends or Confederates: And also not to meddle with any mens particulars, which haue their due motion in Our ordinarie Courts of Iustice. And whereas We heare that they haue sent a message to* Sir Edwin Sandys, *to know the reasons of his late restraint, you shall in Our name resolue them, That it was not for any misdemeanour of his in Parliament: But to put them out of doubt of any question of that nature that may arise among them hereafter, you shall resolue them in Our name, That We thinke our Selfe very free and able to punish any mans misdemeanours in Parliament, aswell during their sitting, as after; which*

We meane not to ſpare hereafter, vpon any occaſion of any mans inſolent behaviour there, that ſhalbe miniſtred vnto Vs. And if they haue already touched any of theſe points which Wee haue here forbidden, in any Petition of theirs which is to be ſent vnto Vs, it is Our pleaſure that you ſhall tell them, That except they reforme it before it come to Our hands, Wee will not deigne the hearing nor anſwering of it. And whereas Wee heare that they are deſirous, that We ſhould make this a Seſſion of Parliament before Chriſtmas, You may tell them, It ſhall be in their default if they want it: For if they will make ready betweene this and that time, ſome ſuch Lawes as ſhall be really good for the Common-wealth, Wee will very willingly

lingly giue Our Royall aſſ nt vnto them: And ſo it ſhall thereby appeare, That if good Lawes bee not made at this time for the weale of the people, the blame ſhall onely and moſt iuſtly lie vpon ſuch turbulent ſpirits, as ſhall preferre their particular ends to the weale of this Kingdome and Commonwealth. And ſo We bid you farewell. Giuen at Our Court at Newmarket, the third day of December, 1621.

To Our truſtie and welbeloued,
The Speaker of Our Commons
Houſe of Parliament.

VVhich

Hich Letters being publikely read in the Houſe, they were ſo farre either from reforming their intended Petition, which conteined thoſe points by Vs forbidden, or yet from going on cheerefully in propounding of good Lawes, for which they were called, and to which purpoſe Wee granted them in the end of Our ſaid Letter to the Speaker, to make it a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, whereof Wee vnderſtood them to bee very deſirous, that they reſolued to ſend the ſame vnto vs together with another Petition iuſtifying the former, notwithſtanding Our forbidding them in Our ſaid Letter to ſend the former Petition vnto Vs, as alſo ſate euer ſilent thereafter, till they were diſſolued, as ſhall hereafter more largely be expreſſed.

Thoſe petitions being ſent from the Commons by a ſelect number of that Houſe vnto Vs then being at *Newmarket* for Our health, the Houſe forbare to proceed in any buſineſſe of importance, purpoſing,

posing, as was apparantly discerned, and as the euent prooued, so to continue vntill the returne of their Messengers with Our Answere; which wee vnderstanding, and being desirous to haue the time better husbanded, as was fit (the shortnesse thereof, by reason of the approach of Christmas being respected) required Our Secretarie to deliuer a Message vnto them for this purpose, which he did, first by word of mouth, and after by appointment of the House set it downe in writing in these words, viz.

HIs Maiestie, remembring that this House was desirous to haue a Sessions betweene this and Christmasse (whereupon it pleased Him to signifie vnto vs, that wee should haue contentment therein, and that there should bee a Sessions, if wee

our selues were not in fault, taking now notice that the House forbeares to proceede with any Billes vntill the returne of the Messengers, lately sent vnto his Maiestie, hath enioyned mee to commaund the House in his Name not to lose time in their proceeding, for preparing of good Lawes in the meane while, in consideration of this so neere approach of Christmasse; And that his Maiestie hopes they will not take vpon them to make a Recesse in effect, though not in shew without his warrant.

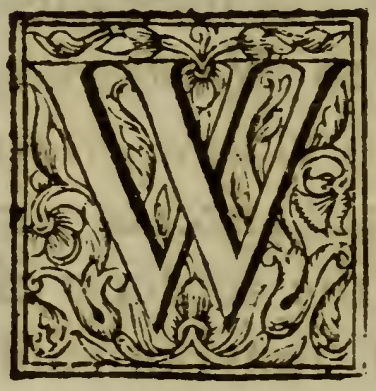
BVt this Message being deliuered, was so farre from working that good effect, which Wee did most iustly expect, that contrariwise some captious and curi-

ous

ous heads tooke exception thereat, as tending to the breach of their Priuiledges, by commanding them to proceede with Bills, though We thereby, neither designed any particular Billes for them to proceed with, nor yet forbade any other Parliamentary proceedings; And with those, and such other vndutifull straines of wit, they spunne out the time vntill the returne of their Messengers, who being come to *Newmarket*, presented both the Petitions vnto vs, who well knowing beforehand the effect of the former, and then obseruing the contents of the latter, and finding, that from both did reflect vpon Our Person and gouernment sundry causelesse aspersions, and that thereby Our Royall Prerogatiues were inuaded and assailed, after an admonition to beware of medling therewith, Wee returned vnto them Our Answere in writing, as followeth.

HIS MAIESTIES ANſwere to the Apologetike Petition of the Houſe of COMMONS,

Preſented to his Maieſty by a dozen of the Members of that Houſe, by their directions.



Ee muſt heere begin in the ſame faſhion that We would haue done if your firſt Petition had come to Our hands before Wee had made a ſtay thereof, which is to repeate the firſt wordes of the late Queene *of famous memory, vſed by her in Anſwer to an inſolent propoſition, made by a* Polonian *Ambaſſadour vnto her*, *That is*, Legatum expectabamus, Heraldum accepimus. *For We had great reaſon*

to

to expect that the first Message from your House should haue beene a Message of thankesgiuing for Our continued gracious behauiour towards Our people since your last Receße, not onely by Our Proclamation of Grace, wherein were conteined fixe or seuen and thirty Articles, all of seuerall points of Grace to the people; but also by the labour Wee tooke for the satisfaction of both Houses in those three Articles recommended vnto Vs in both their names by the right Reuerend Father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, *And likewise for the good gouernement of* Ireland *We are now in hand with at your request. But not onely haue Wee heard no newes of all this, but contrary great complaints of the danger of Religi-*

ion within this Kingdome tacitely implying Our ill gouernement in this point. And Wee leaue to you to iudge, whether it be your dueties that are the Representatiue body of Our people, so to distaste them with Our gouernement, whereas by the contrary it is your duety with all your endeauours to kindle more and more a dutifull and thankefull loue in the peoples hearts towards Vs for Our iust and gracious gouernment. Now, whereas in the very beginning of this your Apologie, you taxe Vs in faire termes of trusting vncertaine reports, and partiall informations concerning your proceedings, Wee wish you to remember, that We are an old and experienced King, needing no such lessons, being in Our conscience freest of any

King

King aliue from hearing or trusting idle reports, which so many of your House as are neerest Vs can beare witnesse vnto you, if you would giue as good eare to them, as you doe to some Tribunitiall Orators amongst you. And for proofe in this particular, Wee haue made your owne Messengers conferre your other Petition, sent by you, with the copy thereof, which was sent Vs before, betweene which there is no difference at all, but that since Our receiuing the first Copie you added a conclusion vnto it, which could not come to Our hands till it was done by you, and your Messengers sent, which was all at one time. And if that Wee had had no Copie of it before hand, Wee must haue receiued your first Petition to

Our

Our great dishonour, before Wee had knowen what it conteyned, which would haue enforced Vs to haue returned you a farre worse Answere then now Wee doe. For then your Messengers had returned with nothing; but that Wee haue iudged your petition vnlawfull, and vnworthy of an Answere. For as to your Conclusion thereof, it is nothing, but Protestatio contraria facto. *For in the body of your Petition you vsurpe vpon Our Prerogatiue Royall, and meddle with things farre aboue your reach: And then in the couclusion you protest the contrary, as if a Robber would take a mans purse, and then protest hee meant not to rob him. For first, you presume to giue Vs your aduice concerning the match*

of

of Our dearest Sonne with some Protestant, We cannot say Princesse (for Wee know none of these fit for him,) and dissuade Vs from his match with Spaine, *vrging Vs to a present warre with that King: And yet in the conclusion, forsooth, ye protest ye intend not to presse vpon Our most vndoubted and regall Prerogatiue, as if the Petitioning of Vs in matters that your selues confesse yee ought not to meddle with, were not a medling with them. And whereas yee pretend, that you were inuited to this course by the speeches of three Honourable Lords; Yet by so much as your selues repeat of their speeches, nothing can bee concluded, but that We were resolued by warre to regaine the* Palatinate, *if otherwise*

Wee could not attaine vnto it; and you were inuited to aduise forthwith vpon a supply for keeping the forces in the Palatinate *from disbanding, and to foresee the meanes for the raysing and maintaining of the body of an Armie for that warre against the Spring. Now what inference can bee made vpon this, That therefore Wee must presently denounce warre against the King of* Spaine, *breake Our dearest Sonnes match, and match him to one of Our Religion, let the world iudge. The difference is no greater, then as if Wee would tell a Merchant, that Wee had great neede to borrow money from him for raysing an Armie, that thereupon it should follow, that Wee were bound to follow his aduice in the directions*

of the warre, and all things depending thereupon. But yet not contenting your selues with this excuse of yours, which indeed cannot hold water, yee come after to a direct contradiction to the conclusion of your former Petition, saying, That the Honour and safety of Vs and Our Posterity, and the Patrimony *of Our Children, inuaded and possessed by their enemies, the welfare of Religion, and State of Our Kingdome are matter at any time not vnfit for your deepest considerations in Parliament. To this generality We answere with the* Logicians, *That where all things are contained, nothing is omitted. So as this plenipotencie of yours inuests you in all power vpon Earth, lacking nothing but the Popes*

to haue the keyes also both of Heauen and Purgatory. And to this vaste generality of yours, Wee can giue no other answer, for it will trouble all the best Lawyers in the House to make a good Commentary vpon it: For so did the Puritan Ministers in Scotland bring all kinde of causes within the compasse of their iurisdiction, saying, That it was the Churches office to iudge of slander, and there could no kinde of crime or fault bee committed, but there was a slander in it, either against God, the King, or their Neighbour. And by this meanes they hooked in to themselues the cognisance of all causes, or like Bellarmines *distinction of the Popes power ouer all Kings*, in ordine ad Spiritualia, *whereby he giues him all*

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temporall iurisdiction ouer them. But to giue you a direct answere to the matter of warre, for which you are so earnest, We confesse We rather expected that you should haue giuen Vs great and heartie thankes for the so long maintaining a setled peace in all Our Dominions, when as all Our Neighbours about are in a miserable combustion of Warre; but Dulce bellum inexpertis; *and We indeed find by experience, that a number of Our Subiects are so pampered with peace, as they are desirous of change, though they know not what. It is true that We haue euer professed, and in that minde, with Gods grace, Wee meane to liue and die, That We will labour by all meanes possible, either by treaty, or by force to restore Our Chil-*

dren to their ancient Dignities and Inheritances; and whatsoeuer Christian Princes or Potentates will set themselues against it, Wee will not spare any lawfull meanes to bring Our so iust and Honourable purpose to a good end; neither shall the Match of Our Sonne, or any other worldly respect be preferred to this Our Resolution: For by Our credit, and interuention with the King of Spaine, *and the Arch-duchesse, and her Husband now with God, Wee preserued the lower* Palatinat *one whole yeere from any further conquering in it, which within any eight dayes space in that time might haue easily been swallowed vp by* Spinolaes *Armie, without any resistance; and in no better case was it now, at Our Ambassadour, the*

Lord

Lord Digbies *comming through* Heydleberge, *if he had not extraordinarily succoured it. But because Wee perceiue that ye couple this warre of the* Palatinate *with the cause of Religion, We must a little vnfold your eyes herein. The beginning of this miserable warre, which hath set all Christendome on fire, was not for Religion; but onely caused by Our Sonne in law his hastie and rash Resolution, following euill counsell, to take to himselfe the Crowne of* Bohemia: *And that this is true, himselfe wrote Letters vnto Vs at that time, desiring Vs to giue assurance, both to the French King, and State of* Venice, *that his accepting of the Crowne of* Bohemia *had no reference to the cause of Religion, but onely by rea-*

son

ſon of his right by Election (as hee called it:) And we would be ſorrie that that aſperſion ſhould come vpon Our Religion, as to make it a good pretext for dethroning of Kings, and vſurping their Crownes. And Wee would bee loath that Our people here ſhould be taught that doctrine: No, let vs not ſo farre wrong the Ieſuites, as to rob them of their ſweet Poſitions and practiſe in that point. And vpon the other part, We aſſure Our ſelfe ſo farre of your charitable thoughts of Vs, that We would neuer haue conſtantly denyed Our Sonne in law, both the title and aſſiſtance in that point, if Wee had beene well perſwaded of the iuſtice of his quarrell. But to conclude this point, This vniuſt vſurpation of the Crownes of Bohemia *and* Hun-

garia

garia *from the Emperour, hath giuen the Pope, and all that partie, too faire a ground, and opened them too wide a gate for the curbing and oppreßing of many thouſands of Our Religion, in diuers parts of Chriſtendome. And whereas yee excuſe your touching vpon the King of* Spaine *vpon the occaſion of the incidents by you repeated in that place, and yet affirme that it is without any touch to his honor, We cannot wonder ynough, that ye are ſo forgetfull, both of your words and writs. For in your former Petition ye plainely affirme, that hee affects the Temporall Monarchie of the whole earth, then which there can be no more malice vttered againſt any great King, to make all other Princes and Potentates, both enuie*

and hate him. But, if ye list, it may be easily tryed, whether that speech touched him in honour or not, if We shall aske him the question, whether hee meanes to assume to himselfe that title or no; For euery King can best iudge of his owne honour. Wee omit the particular eiaculations of some foule mouthed Orators in your House, against the honour of his Crowne and State. And touching your excuse of not determining any thing concerning the Match of Our dearest Sonne, but onely to tell your opinions, and lay it downe at Our feet; First, We desire to know how you could haue presumed to determine in that point, without committing of high Treason. And next, you cannot deny, but your talking of his Match after that manner was

a direct breach of Our commandement & Declaration out of Our own mouth, at the first sitting downe of this Parliament; where We plainely professed, that We were in treatie of his Match with Spaine, *and wished you to haue that confidence in Our Religion and Wisedome, that We would so manage it, as our Religion should receiue no preiudice by it. And the same We now repeat vnto you, professing, that We are so farre ingaged in that Match, as We cannot in honour goe backe, except the King of* Spaine *performe not such things as We expect at his hands. And therefore We are sorrie, that ye should shew to haue so great distrust in Vs, or to conceiue that We should be cold in our Religion: Otherwise We cannot imagine*

how Our former publike Declaration ſhould not haue ſtopped your mouthes in this point. And as to your requeſt, that We would now receiue your former Petition, We wonder what could make you preſume that Wee would now receiue it; whereas in Our former Letter We plainely declared the contrarie vnto you; and therefore Wee haue iuſtly reiected that ſuit of yours: For what haue you left vnattempted in the higheſt points of Soueraigntie in that Petition of yours, except the ſtriking of Coine; For it containes the violation of Leagues, the particular way how to gouerne a warre, and the Marriage of Our deareſt Sonne, both negatiue with Spaine, *nay with any other Popiſh Princeſſe; and alſo affirmatiue, as to the matching with one of*

Our Religion, which Wee confesse is a straine beyond any prouidence or wisedome God hath giuen Vs, as things now stand. These are vnfit things to be handled in Parliament, except your King should require it of you; For who can haue wisedome to iudge of things of that nature, but such as are daily acquainted with the particulars of Treaties, and of the variable or fixed connexion of affaires of State, together with the knowledge of the secret wayes, ends, and intentions of Princes in their seuerall negotiations; otherwise a small mistaking in matters of this nature, may produce more effects then can be imagined: And therefore, Ne sutor vltra crepidam. *And besides, the intermedling in Parliament with matters of*

Peace or Warre, and Marriage of Our dearest Sonne, would be such a diminution to Us and to Our Crowne in forreine Countreys, as would make any Prince neglect to treat with Us, either in matters of Peace or Marriage, except they might be assured by the assent of Parliament. And so it prooued long agoe with a King of France, *who vpon a tricke procuring his States to dissent from some treaty, which before he had made, was after refused treating with by other Princes, to his great reproach, vnlesse hee would first procure the assent of the three Estates to their proposition. And will you cast your eyes vpon the late times, you shall finde, that the late Queene of famous memorie was humbly petitioned by a Parliament to be*

plea-

pleased to Marrie; But her answere was, That shee liked their Petition well, because it was simple, not limiting her to place or person, as not befitting her liking to their fancies; and if they had done otherwise, shee would haue thought it a high presumption in them. Iudge then what Wee may doe in such a case, hauing made Our publique Declaration alreadie, as VVee said before, directly contrary to that which you haue now petitioned. Now to those points in your Petition, whereof you desire an answere, as properly belonging to a Parliament; The first and greatest point is that of Religion, concerning which at this time Wee can giue you no other answere then in the generall, which is, That you may rest secure, that Wee

will

will neuer be wearie to doe all Wee can for the propagation of Our Religion, and repreſsing of Poperie; but the maner and forme you muſt remit to Our care and prouidence, who can beſt conſider of times and ſeaſons, not by vndertaking a publique warre of Religion through all the world at once, which how hard and dangerous a taske it would prooue, you may iudge. But this puts vs in mind, how all the world complained the laſt yeere of plentie of Corne, and God hath ſent vs a cooling card this yeere for that heat; And ſo We pray God, that this deſire amongſt you of kindling warres, ſhewing your wearineſſe of Peace and Plentie, may not make God permit vs to fall in the miſeries of both. But as Wee alreadie ſaid,

Our

Our care of Religion must be such, as on the one part We must not by the hote prosecution of Our Recusants at home irritate forreine Princes of contrary Religion, and teach them the way to plague the Protestants in their Dominions, whom with Wee daily intercede, and at this time principally, for ease to them of Our profession that liue vnder them; yet vpon the other part, We neuer meane to spare from due and seuere punishment any Papist that will grow insolent for liuing vnder Our so milde Gouernment. And you may also be assured, We will leaue no care vntaken, as well for the good education of the youth at home, especially the children of Papists, as also for preseruing at all times hereafter the youth that are, or shall be abroad,

 from

from being bred in dangerous places, and ſo poiſoned in Popiſh Seminaries. And as in this point, namely concerning the good education of the Popiſh youth at home, We haue alreadie giuen ſome good proofe, both in this Kingdome and in Ireland : *So will We be well pleaſed to paſſe any good Lawes that ſhall be made, either now, or at any time hereafter to this purpoſe. And as to your requeſt, of making this a Seßion, and granting a generall Pardon, it ſhall be in your defaults if Wee make not this a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, as in Our former Letter We notified vnto you. But for the Pardon, yee craue ſuch particulars in it as Wee muſt be well aduiſed vpon, leſt otherwiſe Wee giue you backe the double or triple of that*

Wee

Wee are to receiue by your entire Subsidie without Fifteens. But the ordinarie course Wee hold fittest to bee vsed still in this case, which is, that Wee should of Our free grace send you downe a Pardon from the Higher House, containing such points as We shall thinke fittest, wherein We hope ye shall receiue good satisfaction. But We cannot omit to shew you how strange We thinke it, that ye should make so bad and vniust a Commentarie vpon some words of Our former Letter, as if We meant to restraine you thereby of your ancient priuiledges and liberties in Parliament. Truly a scholler would bee ashamed so to misplace and misiudge any sentences in another mans booke. For whereas in the fore-end of Our for-

mer Letter We discharge you to meddle with matters of gouernment, or mysteries of State, namely matters of Warre or Peace, or Our dearest Sonnes Match with Spaine ; *by which particular denominations We interpret and restraine Our former words; and then towards the end of Our Letter We forbid you to meddle with such things as haue their ordinarie course in Courts of Justice: Yee couple together those two sentences, lying farre asunder, and plainly leaue out these words, of mysteries of State; So as ye erre* à bene diuisis ad male coniuncta. *For of the former part, concerning mysteries of State, Wee plainelie restrained Our meaning to the particulars that were after mentioned: and in the latter We confesse*

We

We meant it by Sir Edward Cokes *foolish business, because these heades he is accused of were before your meeting presented vnto Vs, and We had setled a legall course of proceeding therein. And therefore it had well become him, especiallie being Our Seruant, and one of Our Councell, if hee had had any thing against it, to haue complained vnto Vs, which he neuer did, though he was ordinarilie at Our Court, since that time, and neuer had accesse refused vnto him. And although We cannot allow of the stile, calling it your ancient and vndoubted right and inheritance, but could rather haue wished, that ye had said that your priuiledges were deriued from the grace and permission of Our Ancestours and Vs;*

For most of them grew from precedents, which shewes rather a toleration then inheritance. Yet Wee are pleased to giue you Our Royall assurance, That as long as you shall continue to containe your selues within the limits of your dutie and respect to Vs (as Wee assure Our selfe you will doe) Wee will bee as carefull to maintaine and preserue your lawfull liberties and priuiledges as euer any Our Predecessours were, nay as to preserue Our owne Royall Prerogatiue. So as your House shall onelie haue neede to beware to trench vpon the Prerogatiue of the Crowne, which would enforce Vs, or any iust King to retrench them of their priuiledges, that would pare his Prerogatiue and flowers of the Crowne.

But of this We hope there ſhall neuer be cauſe giuen. And to conclude, ſince Wee haue now ſo largely expreſſed the ſinceritie of Our meaning vnto you, We require you to goe on cheerefullie, and to vſe all conuenient diligence for preparing ſuch good Lawes for Vs to paſſe at this time, as the people may ſee the care, that both Wee and you haue for the good gouernement of the Kingdome; ending as We did in Our former Letter; If there be not a happie Seſſion made at this time, it ſhall bee in your default. And aboue all, beware by your wayward neſſe at this time, to giue Our Childrens Aduerſaries cauſe to inſult vpon them, vpon the rumour that ſhall be ſpred abroad of a diſtraction betweene Vs and Our people, wherof

ye are the repreſentatiue bodie. At Our Court at Newmarket the 11. day of December, 1621.

THis Anſwere being giuen at *Newmarket*, on Tueſday, the eighth of *December*, and returned to the houſe on Friday, the fourteenth of *December*, ſome carping wits that were more inclinable to peruert and wreſt Our words vnto a ſence contrary to our meaning, then to doe any good office betweene Vs and Our people, began to take exception at ſome words concerning their priuiledges toward the end of Our ſayd Anſwere, that thereby their Priuiledges were denied and infringed; And by their example others of more moderate and better temper, were drawen into ſome doubts and iealouſies, which occaſioned much diſcontentment in the Houſe, which comming to Our eares, and being willing to omit

omit nothing on Our part, that might assure the Commons that Wee meant nothing lesse then to violate their Priuiledges; for explanation of Our true intent in the former, We wrote Our Letters directed to Our Secretary, which followe in these words.

Right trusty and Welbeloued Councellour, Wee greet you well. Wee are sorrie to heare, that, notwithstanding Our reiterated Messages to Our House of Commons, for going on in their businesses in regard of the shortnesse of time, betwixt this and Christmas, and of their owne earnest desire, that Wee should now conclude a Session, by making of good and profitable Lawes,

they continue to loose time; And now of late, vpon Our gracious Answer sent vnto them, haue taken occasion to make more delay, in appointing a Committee to morrow, to consider vpon the points of Our Answer; and especially concerning that point in it which maketh mention of their priuiledges. Our pleasure therefore is, that you shall in Our name tell them, that We are so loath to haue time mis-spent, which is so pretious a thing, in the well vsing whereof Our people may receiue so great a benefit, as We are thus farre contented to discend from Our Royall dignity, by explaning at this time Our meaning in Our sayd Answer, touching that point, That all Our good Subiects in that House, that intend nothing but Our

Honour,

Honour, and the weale of the Common-wealth, may cleerely ſee Our intention. Whereas in Our ſayd Anſwere We told them, that Wee could not allow of the ſtile, calling it their ancient and vndoubted right and inheritance; but could rather haue wiſhed, that they had ſayd their priuiledges were deriued from the grace and permiſſion of Our Anceſtors and Vs: (for moſt of them grow from preſidents, which ſhewes rather a toleration then inheritance) the plaine truth is, That Wee cannot with patience endure Our Subiects to vſe ſuch Antimonarchicall words to Vs concerning their Liberties, except they had ſubioyned, that they were granted vnto them by the grace and fauour of Our Predeceſſours. But as for Our inten-

tion herein, God knowes Wee neuer meant to deny them any lawfull Priuiledges that euer that House enioyed in Our Predecessours times, as We expected Our said Answere should haue sufficiently cleered them; neither in Justice what euer they haue vndoubted right vnto; nor in Grace what euer Our Predecessours or We haue graciously permitted vnto them: And therefore We made that distinction of the most part; *For whatsoeuer Priuiledges or Liberties they enioy by any Law or Statute, shall be euer inuiolably preserued by Vs; And Wee hope Our Posteritie will imitate Our footsteps therein. And whatsoeuer Priuiledges they enioy by long Custome, and vncontrolled and lawfull Presidents, Wee will likewise be as carefull*

to

to preſerue them, and tranſmit the care thereof to Our Poſteritie; neither was it any way in Our minde to thinke of any particular point wherein Wee meant to diſallow of their Liberties. So as in Iuſtice We confeſſe Our ſelues to be bound to maintaine them in their rights; and in Grace We are rather minded to encreaſe, then infringe any of them, if they ſhall ſo deſerue at Our hands. To end therefore as Wee began, let them goe on cheerefully in their buſineſſes, reiecting the curious wrangling of Lawyers vpon words and ſyllables; otherwiſe (which God forbid) the world ſhall ſee how often and how earneſtly Wee haue preſſed them to goe on, according to their calling, with thoſe things that are fit to be done for the

weale of Our Crowne and Kingdome; And how many curious ſhifts haue beene from time to time maliciouſly found out, to fruſtrate Vs of Our good purpoſe, and hinder them from the performance of that Seruice, which they ought to Vs and to Our whole Kingdome; whereof when the Countrey ſhall come to be truely enformed, they will giue the Authours thereof little thankes.

Giuen at Our Court at Royſton, the ſixteenth day of December, 1621.

To Our right truſtie and welbeloued Councellor, Sir *George Caluert*, Knight, one of Our principall Secretaries.

AND

ND finding, that notwithſtanding all this care taken by Vs for their ſatisfaction, & that Our thrice reiterated preſsing them to husband well the ſhortneſſe of time, in doing good buſineſſe fit for a Parliament, Wee were ſo farre from preuailing with them, as to all thoſe three admonitions of Ours, which are here related, Firſt, by Our meſſage deliuered by Our Secretary; Next, by Our concluſion of Our Anſwere to their Petition; And laſtly, by the concluſion of Our explanation ſent to Our Secretarie, We neither got anſwere, nor obedience; Yet the continuall care Wee had that this meeting ſhould not diſſolue without ſome fruit for the publike good of Our Subiects, made Vs addreſſe another Letter to the Speaker in theſe words.

Maſter

MAster Speaker, *Wherea*s at the humble *ſuit of Our houſe of Commons Wee condeſcended to make this meeting a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, to which purpoſe We gaue them time vntill Saturday next, in caſe they would ſeriouſly applie themſelues to that end; & likewiſe ſince, out of Our Grace, and to take away al miſtakings, by Our Letters directed to Our Secretarie, Wee were pleaſed ſo fully and clearely to explane Our ſelues in the point of maintaining all lawfull Priuiledges to Our ſaid Houſe, which ſince Wee cannot heare hath had the wiſhed effect, in making them ſpend this ſhort time in preparing things moſt neceſſary for a Seſſion, Wee haue*

thought

thought good once more clearely by this to impart Our minde vnto them; which is, that in respect of the expectation after this so long a meeting in Parliament, as also that the generalitie, for the most part, rather iudge things by the outward effects then enter into the causes of them, Wee haue an earnest desire to make this a Session, to the end that our good and louing Subiects may haue some taste, aswell of Our Grace and goodnesse towards them by our free Pardon, and good Lawes to bee passed, as they haue had, both by the great, and vnusuall examples of Iustice since this meeting, and the so many eases and comforts giuen vnto them by Proclamatiõ: And therfore calling to minde, that the passing of the Subsidie, an Acte for continuance

of Statutes, and the Pardon, are the three most pressing businesses to be effected before the end of the Session, Wee wish them, that, as Wee haue giuen order for the Pardon to goe on with all expedition, so they presently goe in hand with the Acte for continuance of Statutes. As for the Subsidie, though time presseth much, yet if they finde it may not now conueniently be done, we will not make that any way an impediment to the good which Wee desire our people should feele by making this a Session. Thus much We thought good to giue them to vnderstand, and withall to assure them, that if they shall not applie themselues instantly to prepare the aforesaid things for Our Royall Assent against Saturday next, Wee

will

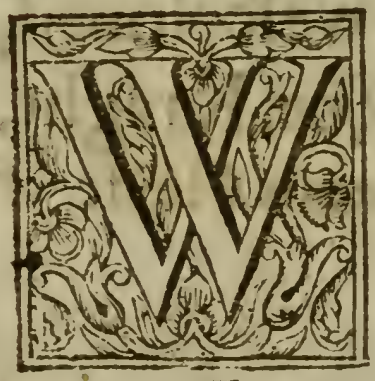
will without expecting any further answere from them, construe by their slackenesse, that they desire not a Session; and in such case We must giue a larger time for their returning homeward, to such of both Houses as are to goe into their Countreys to keepe hospitalitie among their neighbours in this time of Recesse.

Giuen at our Court at *Theobalds*, the 17. day of *December*, 1621.

To Our trustie and welbeloued, Sir *Thomas Richardson*, Knight, Speaker of Our Commons House of Parliament.

Nd hauing at laſt (as Wee hoped) by theſe meanes ſcattered and diſperſed thoſe miſtes and vapours, which had beene thus raiſed about their Priuiledges, the Houſe hauing reſolued on Tueſday, the eighteenth of *December*, to returne thankes vnto Vs, and therewith an excuſe for not making a Seſſiõ, and paſſing Bills, both conteined in a Petition in writing, and diſpatched the ſame vnto Vs, being by that time come to *Theobalds*, the tenour whereof followeth.

May it pleaſe your moſt Excellent MAIESTIE,



E your moſt loyall and humble Subiects, the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of your Commons Houſe of Parliament, hauing

this

this Morning, to our great comfort, heard your Maiesties Letter sent to our Speaker, full of Grace and Goodnesse to vs and all your people, haue thought it our duetie foorthwith, to returne our most humble and heartie thankes to your Sacred Maiestie, for so Royall a fauour vouchsafed vnto vs; And we doe humbly beseech your Maiestie to be truely informed from vs, that although we haue beene very desirous in our duetie to your Maiestie, who called vs to this seruice, and to our Countrey for whom we serue, to haue some good Lawes now to haue beene passed; and that there might haue beene a Session before Christmasse, to which your Maiestie vpon our humble Petition, was heretofore Graciously pleased to giue

way: yet entring now into a ſerious conſideration of the nature of thoſe things, which muſt of neceſſitie be prepared for the finiſhing of a Seſſion, and the ſtrait of time whereunto we are driuen, by ſome vnhappy diuerſions which haue fallen vpon vs, to our great griefe, wee are enforced once againe to fly to your Maieſties Grace and fauour, humbly ſubmitting our ſelues to your Royall wiſedome, what time will be fitteſt for our departure, and for our reacceſſe, to perfect thoſe beginnings which are in preparation with vs; which time by Gods grace we reſolue to ſpend with that diligence and care, as ſhall giue good ſatisfaction to your Maieſtie, to our Countrey, and to our owne conſciences, that we ſhall make good vſe thereof.

This

THis Wee accepted graciouſly, and returned them an anſwere by their owne Meſſengers in theſe words.

THAT We were ſorrie this could not bee made a Seßion, according to their owne deſire expreſſed in their late Petition preferred vnto Vs, to which Wee had moſt willingly aßented; that they knew there was no fault in Vs, who obſeruing the needlßeſt impediments, vpon which they tooke occaſion to ſtay their proceedings, had often admoniſhed them not to loſe time; firſt, by Secretary Caluert, *and afterwards by three ſundry Letters and Anſwers. But ſince they conceiued the ſtraitneſſe of time (which they had drawne*

vpon

vpon themselues) was such, that it would permit nothing to bee done at this time, Wee had giuen order to adiourne the Parliament till the eighth of February next, which was the first day Wee had formerly appointed for Our meeting together.

Wee were likewise pleased to say, that Wee could not omit to tell them, that we expected other thankes from them, then they had sent Vs at this time, namely for Our gracious promises to maintaine their Priuiledges, as Our owne Soueraigne Prerogatiue: First contained in Our Answere to their Petition, and afterwards as clearely explaned and enlarged by Our next Letter to Secretarie Caluert, *as Our wits, for their safetie, satisfaction and aduantage, could*

possibly

poſsibly deuiſe; but of this We heard nothing, being ſlipt by, and wholly omitted by them.

Hich meſſage was accordingly deliuered the next morning in the Houſe of Commons. But while We were buſied at *Theobalds* in receiuing their Petition, and returning this anſwere agreeable to Our Grace and good intention towards them, theſe mutinous and diſcontented ſpirits, neuer giuing ouer their wicked purpoſe, began anew to ſtirre the cóles of diſcontentment amongſt them; and making them beleeue, that their Priuiledges were yet in danger (vpon what ground God knowes, Wee cannot imagine nor gueſſe) procured a Committee to be made for taking their Liberties into conſideration; where a Proteſtation was made, to

whom Wee know not, concerning their Priuiledges, which they pretended to bee violated by Our Letters and messages, and thereupon in an vnseasonable houre, being sixe of the clocke at night, and a very thinne House, scarcely comming to the third part of the full number, contrary to their owne custome in all matters of weight, they conclude and enter a Protestation for their Liberties, in such ambiguous and generall words, as might serue for future times to inuade most of those Rights and Prerogatiues annexed to Our Imperiall Crowne, as bee the very markes and Characters of Monarchie and Souereigntie, and whereof Wee found Our Crowne vndoubtedly possessed. For founding the claime of their Priuiledges vpon the words of Our Writt for assembling a Parliament, the contriuers of that Protestation craftily mentioned some words, *viz. Super arduis Regni negotijs*, but of purpose left out *quibusdam*, which restraines that generalitie to such particular Cases, as Wee are to consult with them vpon. And the very vncontrolled

Custome

Cuſtome of all times doeth manifeſtly prooue, that the King Himſelfe, or His Chancellour in his name, doeth at the very beginning of the Parliament declare vnto them what things theſe *quibuſdam* are, wherein hee craueth their aduice and aſſiſtance; And vſe is euer the beſt interpreter of words in a caſe of this nature: Vpon which vnduetifull Proteſtation Wee were iuſtly occaſioned to publiſh Our pleaſure for diſſolution of the Parliament, as appeares by Our Proclamation.

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M.DC.XXI.