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# Mistris PARLIAMENT

Brought to Bed of a Monstrous  
Childe of Reformation.

With her 7 Yeers Teeming, bitter Pangs, and hard Travaile,  
that she hath undergone in bringing forth her first-borne,  
( *Being a Precious Babe of Grace.* )

*With the cruelty of Mistris London her Midwife ; and great  
Affection of Mrs. Synod her Nurse , Mrs. Schisme,  
Mrs. Priviledge , Mrs. Ordinance , Mrs.  
Univerfall Toleration, and Mrs. Level-  
ler her Gossips.*

Ring the Bells backwards; lusty bonfires make  
Of purest straw that from pisset beds you take ;  
Your musick be the screeking of a Cart,  
And your shrill Songs, sound sweeter then a -----  
For joy that Mistris Parliament's brought a bed ;  
Pray see the Issue of her Maiden-head :  
'Tis but 3 half-pence in : The Sight will please ye,  
And of your Grief and melancholly ease you.

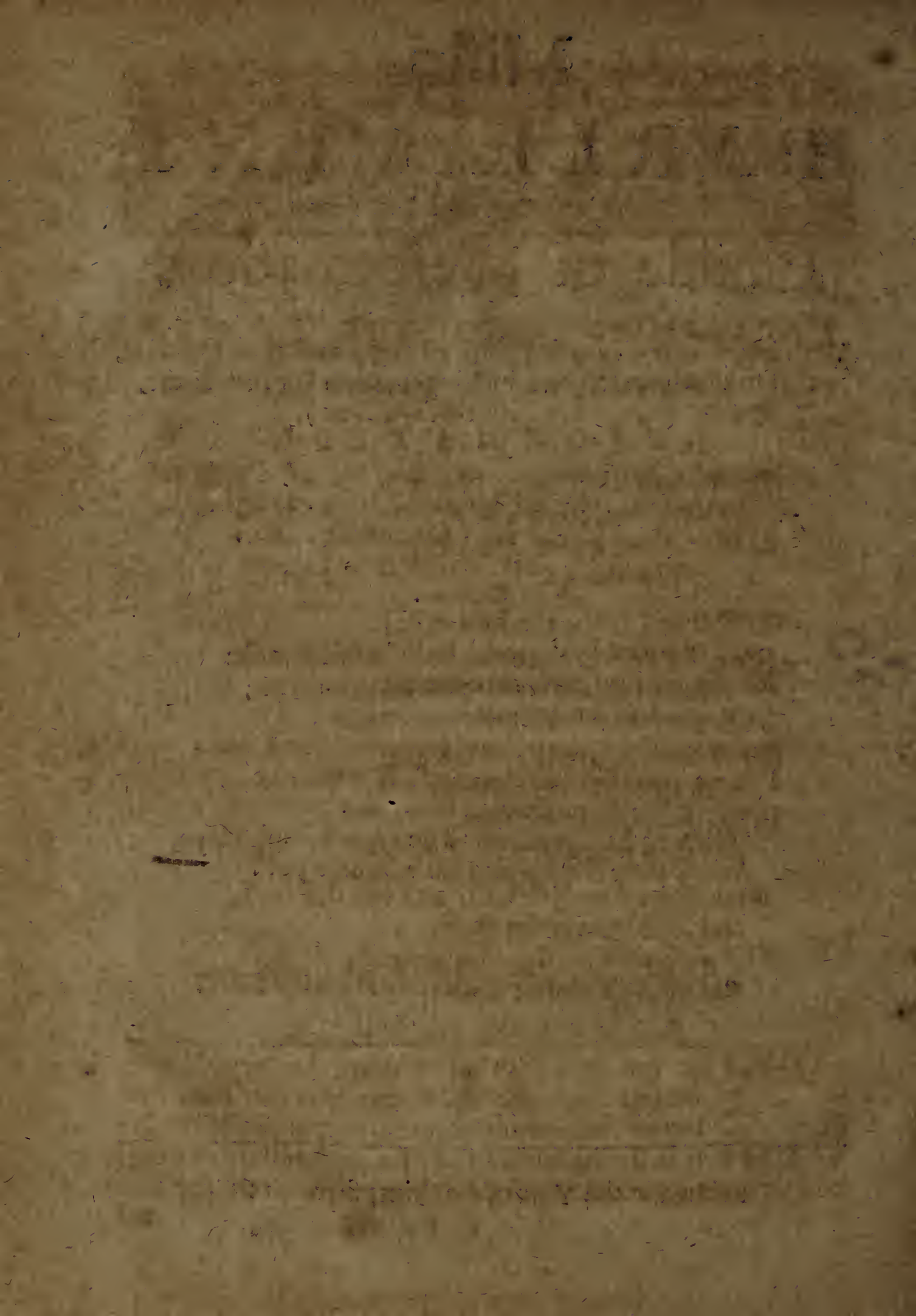
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*Mercurius Melancholicus :*



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Mrs.

PARLIAMENT BROUGHT TO BED

Of the Precious Babe of

REFORMATION.

The *Parliament* in strong labour is,  
 pray Women come away,  
 Least *Reformation* we doe miss,  
 alack and well-aday.

Call *Mistris London* the Mid-wife,  
 call *Mistris Lent-all* too,  
 That if the First can't save her life,  
 the last may see her goe.

Bid *Rainsborough* to Rigg his Sippes  
 with all convenient speed,  
 Lest *Gregory* doe fit his slips,  
 and then wee *Saints* must bleed.

Blow, blow strong *Winded*, lend one stiff blast,  
 and send her quick to hell,  
 Our miseries then shall soon be past,  
 and our sick land be well.

Enter Mrs. Synod, an old dry Nurse.

¶ Ide, run, goe, with all celerity, and fetch hither  
 R ¶ *Mistris London* the Midwife; tell her that Mrs. *Par-*  
 ¶ *liament* desires her to come away presently, for she  
 ¶ is in strong labour, and hath most miserable pangs  
 and throwes that come thiek upon her; pray heavens she hath

not taken some fright; I heard her the other day complaine of a *Scotchman*, and of an *Irishman*, and a *Welshmen*; Well, well, 'twas ill done, Ile besworne, to fright a Gentlewoman of her quallity and breeding, one that came of so ancient and Honorable a Family too, as the *Parliaments of England*? Who is it almost that has not known the *Parliaments* to be as honourable as ever was any Family in *England* (next the King, God bless him) and hath done as much good for the Kingdome: and now to be despised by every sause-boxe boy, and loose fellow to make Rimes as they call them, and sing-songs of her, making of her a Whore, and no better then the arrantest Strumpet that ever went upon two shooes, telling her, that she hath imprisoned her Husband, and prostituted her body to a very *Eunuch*, that had nothing to help himself withall; and since, hath followed the *Camp*, & became an Amunition-W, and turn'd up her tayle to every lowly *Ill-dependent* Rascall in the *Army*; Sir *Thomas* himself, and king *Cromwell* too, a very *Town-Bull*, and committed flat fornication with *Broom-men*, *Tinkers*, and *Shannell-rakers*, and hath learnt to murder, Rob, take Purfes, pick pockets; but she is not the first Woman that hath done amiss, These are but slips occasioned by the weakness of her sex; Ile in and make her a *Spirituall Cawdle* to comfort her weak back; for I promise you, I doubt that she will have but an ill bargain on't. Mrs. Parliament; why Mrs. Parliament I say; how doe ye Mrs. Parliament; Will ye have a little Strong-waters, or a Cawdle to comfort ye?

Mr. Par. Oh sick, sick; I must cast Nurse; pray reach me a bowle: } have } have. }....

Nurse. Well said Mistris, fetch it up; up with it: Heaven bless me! What is't that looks so red Mistris?

Mrs. Parl. Oh 'tis Blood, innocent blood, that hath lain in clodds congealed at my stomach this full 7 yeers; harke how lowd it cryes for vengeance? I never felt it before I came to *Strafford*, onely once since, at *Canterbury*; O *Tomhins*, O *Challoner*, *Burley*, &c. too well I understand that you suffered by my cruelty unjust deaths. } awe. }

Nurse. 'Tis well tis up; cast againe Mistris.

Mrs.

Mrs. Parl. J will Nurse. { awe, awe. } Oh, Oh, my heart is burst.

Nurse. Lord Mistris, What is't that looks so yellow? is it Choller?

Mrs. Parl. No Nurse, 'tis Gold, accursed gold; For the love of this J sold my God, my King, my Soul, committed Sacrilege, murder, and all manner of mischief. Awe... ..

Nurse. What's this Mrs. that looks like Paper?

Mrs. Par. Oh Nurse, these are Ordinances, Votes, and Declarations; Pray hold my back hard Nurse, my heart will shiver to pieces else. awe, awe, sick sick.

Nurse. What's this that comes so strongly up? Foh, how it stinks all the Kingdome over.

Mrs. Parl. Oh Nurse! This is the accursed Declaration against my King, wherein He is so falsely slandered and reproach'd; Pray fling some hot Embers on't, and make all the haste you can to call Mrs. Sediti<sup>o</sup>n, Mrs. Schisme, Mrs. Toleration, and Mrs. Leveller, tell them; That if they come not presently, J shall miscarry of the sweet Babe of Reformation, that hath cost England so much money, blood and sweat.

Nurs. J am gone: Here's the Midwife forsooth, mistris London.

Mrs. Par. Oh mistris London, helpe me now or J die; never did Parliament endure such bitter pangs; Oh, oh; J am ready to depart.

Mrs. Lon. Depart in the Devills Name if thou wilt; thou shalt have no helpe of mine; J come to laugh at thy sorrow, more then to helpe thee; thou hast had too much of my helpe already, and that hath imboldened thee the more to play the Strumpet with security, and to prostitute thy Members to all manner of Wickedness and Uncleanness: No, languish still, till thou hast brought forth the bastard Issue of thy own Lust thy own self, which was begot in obscenity, and shall be brought forth in iniquity for me; and may it prove as monstrous in its birth, and as fatall to it self, as it hath been ominous to others...

As soon she had made an end of speaking, in came rushing Mrs. Priviledge, Mrs. Ordinance, Mrs. Schisme, Mrs. Sedition, and Mrs. Toleration, who presently fell about their business; one held her hands, another her back, and a third her members: She being in this grievous agony (having no hopes to scape with life) desired Mrs. Truth to indite a bill to have her pray'd for; and that it be speedily sent by the Lord Mayjor to the severall Congregations within every their respective Parishes for her safe Deliverance, which most accurately she penned in form of a Declaration, in these word following.

*The Declaration of Mrs. Parliament, lying very weak, and in most grievous pangs of child-bearing; and cannot be delivered.*

Whosoever dangers are threatned or feared, either by the great perplexity I am at this present in (or by reason of my manyfold sins that now in my weakness lie heavie upon my Conscience,) yet I have assurance, that if I confess and forsake them, I shall finde mercy;

Therefore I confess and acknowledge (though not from the bottom of my heart) that for the space of these 7. Yeers I have been a most cruell murderer, not onely of bodies but of soules; that I have perjur'd my self, first by my Oath of Allegiance, and secondly by my Solemne Covenant; wherein (as in Hose. 1. 9.) I have spoken words *swearing falsly in making a Covenant; And now Judgement springeth up (against me) like Hemlock in the furrows of the field;* that I have most trayterously betrayed, and imprisoned my lawfull King, the Anointed of the Lord; that I have corrupted his Lawes, and turned *judgement to wormwood;* that I have made Gods House and the Kings House a Den of thieves; that I have loved wickedness, and practised it; that no fear hath deborted me from doing any thing (but justice) that I have Robbed both God, and the King, and have not feared the one, nor honoured the other; that I have used all manner of Jugg'ings, Cousenage, Contradictions, and Equivocations; that my Religion hath been Rebellion, Murder, and Rapine; that I have, not onely coveted, but (by the instigation of the Devil, and against



against the Lawes of our Sovereign Lord King CHARLES) taken Stole and forceably carried away the Goods and Chattells of many thousands of his Majesties Loyall and obedient subjects; that I have made this *Canaan* of all happiness, a *Golgotha*, and field of *Blood*, and yoked my fellow subjects to the pride, tyranny and Opression of my own Lust, and Ambition; in stead of *Reforming* I have *Deformed*, and in stead of repairing I have pulled down; Which hath occasioned all these miseries to fall upon me; My greatest grief of all being, that I know I have committed all this, and much more, but cannot Repent for the same; therefore the severall Ministers within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the late Lines of Communications, are desired upon the seventh day of *May*, (being *Rogation Sunday*) if I shall not be delivered before, to keep a Day of Humiliation, and Prating; that the heavy judgements that so inevitably threaten me, may be diverted: That so I may still Rule Reigne and Tyrannize over you, *Parliament everlasting*, Impositions, Assessments and Taxations without end. *Amen*.

Your despised Friend, Mrs. *TRUTH*.

But in the time this was witing, Mistris Parliament grew still worse and worse, and the good Wives made account she had been *drawing on*, therefore Mistris *Priviledge* stepped unto her and spake as followeth.

Mrs. *P.* Dear Daughter, I perceive by thy Pulse beating, and by so much *blood* comming in thy face, that thou art not long liv'd; and it is a question whether the child thou now art in travell with, ever come forth in its right shape, or live to receive its Christendom; and although I have been the supporter and upholder of thee this 7 years day, and Priviledg'd thee in all thy Actions, though contrary to Truth, Religion, Law or Reason, yet I cannot priviledge thee from Dissolution; Therefore I desire thee to make thy Peace with God, and thy Conscience; which I perceive is much troubled; next I advise thee to restore all that thou hast fraudulently taken away, either from God, thy King, or thy Neighbour; and to repent of thy *Periury* and

and blood-shed, and heartily bewail thy self for the same, deliver thy Lord and Master out of Prison, and preserve him from the treacherous designs of *Fairfax, Cromell, Ireton, Hammond, Rainsbrough, Loyce, &c.* ( setting the first aside, who is neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring ) a company of Schismaticall, broaken, Rakehells, Mechanicks, and loote fellows, that will have no Rule for their lives or Actions and yet must be Lords of Mis-rule, and have the Persons and Estates of a free-bron People at the mercy of their hellish wills ; O Mrs. Parliament, here is Mrs. *Schism*, and Mrs. *Sedition* hath too much mislead thee, and hath brought thee to all this shame and ignominy that is now justly fallen upon thee, and disgraced both thee, and thy Honouaable *House* for ever, and how ugly will it appear in the *Chronicles* of after times ? The *Commons House* of Parliament ( that should be the *Fountain* of Justice ) a *Common Bawdy-house*, to prostitute her members to all manner of uncleanness, Murder, Theft, Treason, &c. that should be the members of Christ, pure, holy and undefiled, and blameless before God and man, which is now hatefull and odious to both ; that whosoever, ( whether Minister or other ) doth but speak truth, or tell you of your faults, must be worried to the death by your Blood-hounds, and *Walker's* bitch *Jone Ruggles*, and the rest of the damn'd crue of *Jaylors, Pursuivants, Roagus* and *Judas*, that care not whom they betray for money :-----

Whil'st she was speaking, the room was strangely overspread with darkness, the candles went out of themselves, and there was smelt noysome smells, and heard terrible thunderings, intermix'd with wawling of Catts, howling of Doggs, and barking of Wolves ; against the windows flew ill-boading screech-Owles, Ravens, and other ominous Birds of night, that strook a great terrour to the hearers ; at the same time Mrs. *Parliament*, was miraculously delivered of a *Monster* of a deformed shape, without a head, great goggle eyes, bloody hands growing out of both sides, of its devouring panch, under the belly hung a large bagge, and the feet are like the feet of a Beare ; if you purpose to see it, you must make haste ; for it is now ready to adjourn to a new *Plantation*. *God save the King.*

F I N I S.



