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O F T H E
Four Last Years Reign.

W H E R E I N

It appears by Sixty Five Articles, That a Scheme was laid to raise the Grandeur of *France* and *Spain*, break the Confederacy, make a Separate Peace, destroy the Establish'd Church, sink the Trade of the Nation, betray the Queen, and bring in the Pretender.

As also

A Design to Reform the Army, by putting in *Irish* Officers to command it, and for making private Leagues in order to hasten and support the intended Restauration.

With other

Particulars relating to the Forwardness of a Rebellion in *Scotland*, the great encrease of Popery in *Ireland*, the Occasion of the Queen's Death, and the Discovery of an Immense Sum of Money taken out of the Treasury, and not accounted for.

Presented

To the FREEHOLDERS of *Great Britain*, against the next Election of a New Parliament.

The SIXTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the Author, and are to be Sold at Mr. *Robinson's*, a Looking-Glass Shop, over against *Serjeants-Inn*, *Fleetstreet*. 1714.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

SINCE it is certain, the Enemies to the present Constitution will be very zealous for obtaining a Parliament after their Old Manner, it is earnestly desired of every true Britain, who has any Value for Religion, Liberty, or the Encrease of Trade, to give this Book Gratis at every House in some one Part of a County, City, or Shire-Town in Great Britain, before new Members of Parliament are chosen; to the end the Nation may not again be in danger of falling into the Hands of the Romans. All Persons only upon paying Twenty four Shillings per Hundred, for Paper and Printing the said Book, may have what Number they please, at Mr. Robinson's a Looking-Glass Shop over against Serjeants Inn, Fleetstreet.

Note, A Copy is sent to Ireland, in order to be printed and given away throughout that Kingdom also, against the next Election of a new Parliament there.

GENTLEMEN FREEHOLDERS,

THERE is no need of a Preface or Dedication to adorn an Author's Works, where nothing but Truth that ought to be told is publish'd. Had I a Voice as loud as Thunder, every Article in this Treatise shou'd be proclaim'd at all Market-Crosses throughout Great Britain before the Election for Members of Parliament; to the end no Person may be chosen, who acted or declar'd in Favour of the late Male-Administration.

I have writ Five large Quarto and Octavo Volumes, with many other Treatises to recommend Vertue, Loyalty, Wit, Honour, Truth, and Moderation, and to extinguish Vice, Rebellion, Bribery, Pride and Ambition; and yet I see Men of Figure and Fortune still more degenerate in their Morals. For if the Scene were drawn open of all the dark Designs of the Four last Years Practice, there wou'd appear to the Eye large Landskips of frightful Images, dress'd in strange Disguises and Masquerades.

Be not startled; it is no new thing if there appear in these moving Scenes the Portraitures of French and Spanish Agents, bearing the Character or Mark of British Senatours and Privy Counsellors, who are set forth as taking Pensions in one Hand, and with the other signing Treaties to betray their Prince and Country. To paint Englishmen in these Colours, is not at all

agreeable to my Temper and Humour ; but my Pencil must be guided by the exact Lines and Features of the Face, or the curious Artist will say the Picture is not fairly drawn according to the Original.

I could here draw other Scenes, representing beautiful Figures acting in all things the very Reverse of the Images above mention'd. But their Number is small, and they are only brought in to act extraordinary Parts on the Stage ; to overthrow, or at least discover the Treasonable Plots and Intrigues, that were laid and design'd to destroy the whole *British* Constitution.

The beautiful Images shall appear first on the Theatre in their bright Dresses ; and those are the former Ministry, and the Parliament that sat in their Time, who aspir'd after virtuous Fame, and were ambitious to pull down the Tyrannical Grandeur and Power of *France* and *Spain*. Those Patriots form'd in their Ideas Actions glorious to *Great Britain* : Nothing suited their Genius more, than to settle in *Europe* a just Ballance, founded upon a Safe and General Peace. These were the Prizes they resolv'd to win, and had obtain'd them within one Point : Another Battel fought by *Marlborough* would have given them Possession of the Whole.

To prove this, it is but looking back to the Time when that Ministry and Parliament sat at the Helm of Government. Then the Establish'd Church of *England* was fixt as upon a Rock, and out of Danger of the violent Storms of *Romish* Malice, and the weak Efforts of Schism. Then the vacant Bishopricks were fill'd with pious and wise Prelates, not *false Brethren*, as Envy represented them : Then our Generals went out into the Field of Battel, and fairly beat the *French* back into their own Territories : Then the Enemies Fleet was lock'd up in secure Harbours, and durst not come out to engage the *British* Squadrons : Then many strong Holds surrender'd to the Confederate Forces at Discretion : Every Year the Cannon at the *Tower* and at *St. James's* proclaim'd good News. Then Queen *ANNE* of blessed Memory sat Conqueror on the Throne like *Alexander* the Great, even tir'd with hearing the Tidings of honourable and happy Successes. Then there was Peace at Home, and the *French* King suing for it from Abroad, on very dishonourable Terms to himself, and as advantageous to all *Europe*.

These are some few of the blooming Laurels the Nation was then crown'd with. Let the Enemies to that Administration deny it if they can.

I come now to draw the other Side of the Scene, and represent the Landskips, where the ill-favour'd Images are set forth acting their Parts on the Stage.

Here the whole Hemisphere of the *British* Affairs is to be seen veil'd under the blackest Cloud ; not one bright Day to the
People

People in *England* for the Four last Years. The Sun of Prosperity has shin'd very clear on the *French* and *Spanish* Horizon; their Vines and Figs have been ripen'd by the warm Beams sent forth to them from the Senate-House and Council-Chamber at *London*; our Cold and Darkneſs, and their Heat and Light proceeded from thence: This is no Fiction; the Act is natural.

As often as I look'd into the late Administration, I ſaw few Publick Spirits moving abroad; yet I perceiv'd that every Senator and Miniſter of State ſhew'd an eager Deſire of Applauſe, and much Fear of any Diſappointment in his Character. This I thought was very odd, and a Diſguiſe too viſible to paſs off with a good Grace: For at the very Inſtant thoſe Men wanted to be rever'd, four to one voted for Schemes that had no Form or Comelineſs in them to be ador'd. Among the Crowd of Deſigns then carry'd forwards, one was to order the Duke of *Or----nd* not to fight the *French*, and the good Commons of *England* approv'd of it; and ſo did Papiſts, Non-Jurors and Jacobites. They ſaid it was the true Way of working to humble the Emperor, the *Dutch*, and the *Hanoverians*; and the beſt Plot that ever was laid to raiſe the Grandeur of *France*, bring in the Pretender, and extirpate the Whigs Root and Branch.

From that Day the Scales of Darkneſs dropt off my Eyes; I ſaw by that ſingle Step all the hidden Myſteries of *Rome* appear in a true Light. Upon this our preſent King ſent a Memorial, to ſhew how ruinous that Deſign was to all *Europe*, and the whole Proteſtant Intereſt; but that excellent Declaration was call'd *An Appealing to the Mob*, or a ſort of a ſcandalous Libel to raiſe Rebellion.

Had the *French* King writ with his own Hand a Letter to her Majeſty's Council, what he would have done for the ſaving of his Army and his Kingdom, he could not have had the Aſſurance without bluſhing to aſk for more, than that the *Engliſh* Army ſhould draw off from the Confederate Troops, at the Moment when the other Generals ſaw an Advantage of intirely conquering him and his People. If that Blow had been given to *France*, there had been no more to be done, than drawing up Articles of a General Peace upon our own Terms, and ſending them to *Paris* to be ſign'd. But we, like mad People, ſign'd the Peace *Lewis XIV.* made and ſent over to us.

From the Inſtant I ſaw this great Reſpect ſhew'd to *France*. I abhor'd the Names of HIGH CHURCH and LOW CHURCH, as finding thoſe Titles not proper Diſtinſions. The Period, I found, turn'd upon this Point, Senators and Privy Counſellors are always either real Patriots, or falſe Traytors. For he who maintains and ſtands up for the Conſtitution of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, the Prerogative of the Prince, and the Liberty of the Subject againſt foreign and domeſtick Enemies, and is for ſettling Trade and Commerce upon an advan-

rageous Bottom, that Senator or Privy Counsellor is worthy of virtuous Fame; but he who parts with or gives away any of these Rights or Privileges (let his Pretensions be what they will) is an open Traytor to his Prince and Country.

I know there are softer Names to call these Men by, and that is Superannuated or Lunatick Persons; one of the Three Characters they must bear, there's no taking them all off. If either of the latter, they ought to be pitied and forgiven, but never trusted more; unless it be for bringing in a Bill to forbid Old Women to teach Children the *Primer* and the *Christ-crofs Row*.

The Election of a new Parliament is now coming on; an Error committed at this time in the Choice of Members, may prove fatal, and cause a total Shipwrack of all that is call'd *Liberty* and *Interest*, which our Glorious Deliverer King *GEORGE* has so lately by a miraculous Providence rescued us out of.

Depend upon it, if the Freeholders give the Helm of Government again into the Hands of those who manag'd it last, they'll steer the same Course; nothing but want of an Opportunity can prevent it. For to what Point the Compass stands, the Wind blows, and the Tide runs, the Vessel and the Mariners will drive in spite of Fate.

The wise and faithful Subjects of *Greece*, and the Citizens of old *Rome*, were so very circumspect in giving their Voice for Rulers and Senators, that none would chooie any Person who had once err'd in State-Clicks, tho' it was done ignorantly or with a good Intent.

History tells us, that some have been sent into perpetual Exile, only for offering to speak on the Day of Election in the Field or in the City, in favour of a General or a Magistrate, who was but famous for his Bravery or Conduct to fight, or Boldnets to declare in the defence of Liberty.

Examples of this kind are common in ancient Records, and stand as so many beautiful Monuments, or Statues of Brass, for others to imitate and copy after.

If every Man, who is so happy as to have a Vote in the next Election, would shew the same Zeal and Concern in his Choice for Members of Parliament, none but Senators as Wise and as Faithful as *Cato* would be sent up to meet the King at his first ascending the Throne in the House of Peers, a Prince whose Royal Heart is entirely in the Interest of his People.

There is a sufficient Number of such Members to be found worthy of this Character; I could name above a Hundred in the last Session who stood up like brave Heroes in defence of their Country, when it was threaten'd with inevitable Ruin. I can testify this of some of them. When the Peace with *France* was voted to be Glorious, Safe, Honourable and Advantageous to the Nation, they wept.

The Noble *Grecians*, at the *Turks* coming before the City of *Constantinople* to besiege it, could not deliver themselves with more Eloquence and Strength of Argument, than these Gentlemen did upon the Declaration, that *Spain* and the *West Indies* were to be given to the House of *Bourbon*.

The Speeches made upon this Occasion were not in themselves the less generous for the small Number, who then durst say, *By that Treaty the Emperor, the Dutch and the Hanoverians were betray'd, the brave Barcelonians were to be sacrific'd, the Interest of the French Protestants given up, the Trade and Commerce to foreign Parts sunk and lost.* In a Word, they knew that Treaty destroy'd at once all that *Great Britain* and her Allies had been fighting for above Twenty Years, with the Expence of a Hundred Millions of *English Money*, and a Sea of Christian Blood.

Here I must ask one Question, Can the Men who voted any of these Acts Legal, ever attempt to appear at the Place of Election, to be chose Members of Parliament? Or can any true *Britain* be seen to give a Voice for them? No certainly; such a Proceeding at this time of the day, would be as great a Paradox, as when the blind Multitude call'd those who obstructed the illegal Practice of the late Ministry, *Men that delighted in War, Ruin and Bloodshed; dangerous to the Queen and the Church, Enemies to Peace, Abettors of Schism,* and twenty other black Names, which serv'd to veil the Design then carry'd on with great Fury, to overturn the very Foundation of our whole Constitution.

The Delusion was then so great in the Minds of most Men, that all the transcendent Examples of Vertue, Wit and Religion could not with their Charms open the Eyes of the mad World: For Instance, The admirable Preface writ by the Learned Bishop of *St. Asaph* was laugh'd at, and order'd to be burnt by the common Executioner of vile Criminals.

Here I must stay a while to draw a mournful Scene, and lead the Spectators into the Queen's Apartment, were they'll behold a sad Sight, and see that the Confusion and Treachery then acted in the State, and the Quarrels in the Privy Council, hasten'd the last Period of one of the most Religious, most Excellent, Charitable and Best Princes that ever wore the Imperial Crown of *Great Britain*, or sway'd the Royal Scepter. Thus on a sudden, by the ill Prospect of Affairs then presented to Her Majesty's View, she was taken with very violent Fits, that seiz'd on her Spirits and Nerves; so that she could not live three Months longer, to see her self betray'd, and her Kingdoms involv'd in Civil War, and foreign Troops of several Nations and Languages coming over to engage in the grand Combat.

To prevent this, Her Majesty's Sacred Life fell as a Victim. For she is now stript into a naked Spirit, and set on shore in the invisible World, where that Divine Ray, I mean her Soul, dwells in

in bright Regions of Light and Glory, and is not to answer for the late base and felonious Treaty of Peace, or for any other Leagues, tho' sign'd by her own Royal Hand. Others are to account for those Crimes to the King, and to the next Assembly of Parliament, if the Freeholders are careful in the Choice of worthy Members.

As the Change is happy to the Queen, by being releas'd from Sighs, Sorrow and Tears; so I am sure the Advantage is great to *Europe*, as being sav'd from the Ruin it was threatned with, and we have got a Vertuous, Powerful, Valiant and Wise King. And as this Glorious Monarch must from his very Essence be an Enemy to those, who by base Treaties gave away their Liberties and every thing that was dear to his Subjects; so at the same time he cannot but be the Patron, Friend and Protector, as well as Sovereign of all Men of Vertue, Truth and Innocency.

Since then our King is thus invested with this Just and Noble Character, it is the Duty of the Freeholders and all others, to consider who would have excluded His Majesty from the Throne, and who were for maintaining his Right to the Succession, and to join with one Consent to choose Men of sound and publick Principles; who never embark'd in the Interest of the late Ministry.

The Practice of this Rule will bring Glory and Honour to the Crown, and Liberty and Plenty to the People. Then the Farmers Wooll will come to a good Market, the Weavers Looms set to Work, the Cloathiers will have Demands for Cloath from the Factors, the Merchants will have Cails from Abroad, the Poor will be every where employ'd, Tradesmen and Artificers will find Business and Work come in, and Money circulate in every County, City and Town.

This will be the Issue of a good Parliament, that hates Bribery and understands Commerce. I propose none to be chosen Members of this August Assembly, but Men of Probity and of a cool Temper, and who will inviolably maintain the Church of *England*, as is now by Law establish'd.

To shew in part what has been practis'd, or intended to be done, in the time of the late Administration, I shall borrow from an ingenious Author the following Allusion or Emblem, to give a lively Representation of it.

There now lies before me (says my Author) *in the old Punick Language a Description of the Review of the Captives, who march'd by Scipio Africanus at the Taking of Carthage. A Carthagenian of Quality, who had given that Illustrious Roman Intelligence from time to time of what Steps they were making to their own Overthrow, told him the Names of every Prisoner as he pass'd by, and a Secretary writ down the Notes as follows.*

‘ These Two who are chain’d together, and asham’d to look at one another, are the Leaders of the two Parties in the Sena’e, whose Tryal for Superiority in Eloquence lost the first Election that favour’d the Romans.

‘ This is the Usurer who voted against Hannibal, upon Promise from the Romans of farming the Ground the City stood on, after the Demolition.

‘ That’s the Banker who bought the Bushel of Rings after the Battel of Cannæ. He voted against his Country, out of hopes of selling them to the Relations of the Romans, who wore them at a greater Price.

‘ That’s the Gentleman who gave the first Vote against Hannibal.

‘ That Gentleman there telling the Money to the Soldiers, who is to have all he has, does it only to have it for the time of Reckoning in Possession. Could he have parted with any Part of it Five Years ago, he might have prevented this.

‘ That’s the Gentleman there that wonders at all about him, and seems so mightily astonish’d at every thing that pass’d, he has acted from certain Lectures, and was only his Wife’s Proxy. She speaks Latin finely.

There are many other things in the Punick, which I do not think it prudent to translate, particularly something about Funds and other dark Designs. The Manuscript has some Observations at the Bottom of it, which shews that the Town of Carthage neglected its own Trade, and while some few grew rich, by turning Money in their own Banks, there was a false Appearance of Wealth within, but no Accretion of Riches from abroad. Such it was ever, and ever will be, where it is not the Fashion for Men to value themselves for their Zeal to the Publick.

Thus far our Author carries the Scene, and I think no Person could have drawn a finer Moral than this for my present Purpose, to give a clear Light of all Actions of the last Times, or to tell the Fate that was coming upon this Nation, by being taken into Captivity by the Romans. It exactly points at almost all that pass’d, or that would have pass’d had Time permitted; and the seeing of those who would have sold us, carry’d off in Fetters, with the following Inscriptions on their Foreheads.

This Person, who leads the Van of the Prisoners, was one of the Highest Officers of the Crown. Observe him; he, like the Moon or the Weathercock, always chang’d according to the Times and Seasons. In one Reign he was a staunch Whig, the next a profess’d Tory, then a Trimmer, who play’d Jack on both sides, and now a Mongrel made up of all the Ingredients mix’d together. He betray’d his Country to become Great, and to raise his Successors to mighty Fortunes.

Here marches forward the next Prime Minister of State: He was noted for making Harangues to bring off Traytors, and Panegyricks in Praise of Tyrants and Usurpers. So long as he rode in State and grew Rich, he had no regard to the Honour of his Sovereign, and neglected the Interest of his Country.

That's the Politician, who voted at the Council-Board, the brave *British* General guilty of high Crimes, for often beating the *Romanish* Army, and standing up in defence of Publick Liberty.

Here advances on a Plenipo, famous for signing Treaties and Alliances in breach of the Publick Faith and Honour.

Here comes a Grandee of great Assurance, who bully'd his Princes, and sold his Country. He deflower'd Trains of beautiful Virgins; and after the Rape, turn'd the abused Innocent naked out of Doors to tell the World of the abominable Act.

Here's a Commissioner loaded with Baggs of foreign Coin, given him by the common Enemy, as a Reward to destroy the Manufactories of his own Nation. His Salary for the Treason is Two Thousand *Louis d'Ors* per *Annum*, fine *French* Gold.

That's the Senator, who lately brought in a Bill to set the World on fire, and break off all humane Society between *Judah* and *Ephraim*, in point of Divine Worship.

Besides these Seven dark Planets newly fallen out of their lofty Orbs and taken Captive, I could give an Account of all the other Prisoners, and of their Actions, who upon the coming in of the King were oblig'd to surrender their Offices and Places at Discretion; but their Number is so great, that it would make an entire *Folio* Volume. However, some few particular Articles or short Heads relating to their Conduct, shall be here crowded in; one of which Articles may discover to a wise Man, all the Intrigues mention'd in the Title-Page of this Tract.

Article I. The first Step the Party made to bring themselves into Reputation, and into Places of Profit and Power, they sent out Tribes of Agents in every Quarter of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to make Proclamation, *That the Church was in danger under the former Ministry.* Without that specious Pretence they could have done nothing; all their Plots would have prov'd abortive. For many Persons in these Nations, are like the *Roman* Catholicks in foreign Parts; whatever the crafty Jesuits and Monks, for their own Interest, tell them of Miracles, Pardons, Indulgences and Relicks, tho' never so absurd and notorious against Religion and Reason, the Multitude receive all as so many Articles of Faith.

This apparently was the original Cause, that a Set of our *English* Priests, who were never worthy the Name of Protestant Divines, either with a view to bring in Popery, or to gain fat Benefices, they loudly proclaim'd abroad, *That the Church was in Danger.*

This Declaration of the subtil Priests took extraordinary well; the People thought the Cathedrals and Temples were reeling down, when no Finger touch'd them, or Eye envy'd their Prosperity. The two principal Agents employ'd in this notable Enterprize were Dr. *Sa-----* and Dr. *W-----*, famous

mous for their Zeal to the *Romans* and the Pretender. They were very serviceable in this cunning Design, to put the Nation at home into a Ferment, and *Europe* into Confusion.

Now to shew the Sentiments of those Two Priests, towards the Protestant Religion and its Interest, I do here attest, That one of them has drunk the Pretender's Health above Twenty times; and the other, when a Health was offer'd to him in Memory of King *William*, he made this Answer, *I could (said he) forgive him all his other Villanies, if he had not intail'd that accursed Race of the Hanover-Succession upon the Throne.*

To point these Men out, it is pity they are not oblig'd to dress in the Habit of Friars, and their Admirers in Fools Coats, with the Badge of Popish Zealots.

These Two Incendiaries were look'd upon in the time of the late Ministry, as the main Pillars and Supporters of the Establish'd Church; as indeed they were very strong Props to that of *Rome*.

Art. II. The next Step the Party made, they employ'd several other Priests and Men of Letters to compose a Book in *Folio*, in order to prove Hereditary Right to be the standing Creed of the *Britains*. This Piece was so notably drawn up by those Learned Heads, that it gave a good Stroke to the compleating of the intended Work, for keeping out the *Hanover-Succession* to the Throne.

About this Time the Party also insisted, That the Church was independent of the Crown; and afterwards a Treatise was publish'd to prove that Doctrine, to the end that upon occasion they might again under Colour raise the Mob on their Side against our present King, if he should ever come to Reign, and give them any Disturbance in their wild Career.

The Party finding that all their Schemes answer'd the Ends propos'd, went upon another; a Plot was laid to get a Parliament for their Turn: That had a lucky Issue also. For with a little Pains, and some Money, the Point was carry'd by the Strength of the Rabble, who insulted the honest Gentlemen that were put up for Members: Some of whom were ston'd and hiss'd out of the Field of Election, as Enemies to the Church and Queen.

If these outrageous Insults at any time fail'd of Success, it was made up with the Device of bringing in false Returns, or charging the Gentlemen with hainous Crimes, in order to expel them the House; witness Captain *Steel* and Mr. *Tench*, and a Hundred more such notable Examples.

Art. III. It discovers a great degeneracy in Nature, when Senators bow the Knee and commit sordid and base Actions to curry Favour with their Superiors for a little present Honour or Profit. The first Parliament that sat at *Westminster* upon the Change of the former Ministry, were after a little Acquaintance and Familiarity with the new Ministry, so very obliging to them, that

no Lackeys could have been more observant than they: For whatever Schemes were laid or prepar'd in the Council-Chamber, they were approv'd of in the House, and declar'd to be for the Honour and Advantage of the Nation, by frequent Address'es of Thanks to the Queen, and sometimes to the Ministry themselves. Such Thanks and Address'es have been voted, when not one Member had seen the Draught or knew what were the Particulars of it, otherwis'e than by the common Report of the Court-Party who drew it out.

To instance in no more than the Treaty of Peace; as soon as ever it was thought of, or laid upon the Anvil, scarce any thing but Votes, Speeches, Address'es and Thanks from the House of Commons was cry'd about the Streets, *Of the Glorious, Safe, Honourable and Advantageous Peace in View*; and to be sure in the Middle or at the End of those Printed Papers, the Reader always found something of a Bite or a Reflection upon the Duke of *Marlborough*, the former Ministry, or the whole Body of faithful Patriots, as *Men of Anti-Monarchical Principles, delighting in War, and the Ruin of their Country*.

All these short Histories, with their Comments, were of singular Use to the Cause, and kept up the Countenance of the Party without Doors.

Art. IV. Here enters in upon me a memorable Circumstance, which will stand upon Record in History till the *Axis* of the Universe comes to be unhing'd and drops into its Original *Chaos*. The Model of the Peace made by the former Ministry in the Year 1709, which deserv'd all the Titles of good Fame and Glory, and was for the effectual pulling down of the Grandeur and Power of *France* and *Spain*, was by the late Administration, cast off for Waste Paper; and the new Scheme of Peace ador'd like a tempting and beautiful Goddess; of whose Perfections they wanted nothing but the real and immediate Enjoyment.

But when the Treaty came to be look'd into, it prov'd in all its Forms like the fair Apples of *Sodom*, as soon as touch'd fall to Ashes, and leave a black Stain upon the Hands that gather them.

Art. V. The Pill which made that scandalous Peace last mention'd go off without Complaint, or a Sigh from the Patient, was the Gilding of it over in the Speeches and Votes with this Pretence, *A Peace must be had to save the Nation from being begger'd: There is no Money left to hold on the War any longer*.

When at the same time there were as many Taxes rais'd in the Three Sessions of that Parliament, after this Scheme of Peace was drawn up, as in any Three Years before during the War, when so many Victories crowded in upon us. One Remark more I shall make upon this late Peace, The Queen at the first Meeting of that Parliament, declar'd in Her Speech, *That no*

Peace could be Honourable or Safe, till the entire Monarchy of Spain was restor'd to the House of Austria, and the Ballance of Europe maintain'd. Look into the late Peace, and see how this Declaration has been observ'd.

If the Parliament at *Paris* had voted for this Peace, it would not have surpriz'd me; but for *British* Senators to be continually worshipping it, as a Heathen Idol, I cannot account for it. I leave the Explication of that Great Mystery to the Freeholders, who, I hope, will not be drawn away by Threats or Bribes to let their Voices contradict their own Sight and Reason. The late Ministry acted like Time, what he gives away of himself can never be call'd back; the Object of our real Happiness, a firm Peace, is gone; all the Treasure in the Nation cannot retrieve it in its full Perfection.

Art. VI. Since I am upon this Subject, I shall produce a notable Stratagem made use of to stain the Character of one of our best and most faithful Allies: The House of Commons charg'd the *Dutch* with the Breach of their not sending out their *Quota* of Ships and Men.

That Vote was dash'd at once; for the States of *Holland*, in a Memorial, prov'd the Charge to be false and unjust. However, the Vote was of use. It lubricated the Tongues of the Party, who made a loud Charm about it, and brought many Profelytes over to their Side. This was one Shift of a hundred to make the new Ministry and Parliament appear Lovely to the Face of the World.

Art. VII. *Achitophel* was a wise Politician; his Sagacity in State-Affairs scarce ever fail'd of Success, till he was out-witted by *Hushai*. This is a singular Instance of the superfine Subtily of our late *Machiavels*. To set off the Actions of this Parliament; the Earl of *Godolphin*, the former Treasurer, was brought on the Stage, and in a full Audience charg'd with robbing the Exchequer of Thirty five Millions Sterling. This large Bill of Reckoning was immediately reduc'd to Four Millions; and that Sum appear'd to have been chiefly laid out for publick Services upon emergent Occasions. This Vote struck at the entire Disgrace of that worthy Patriot, who had serv'd his Sovereign and his Country in two Reigns with an unweary'd Diligence.

Art. VIII. Man is become of late so degenerate, that when he sees a matchless Hero fight thro' flakes of Fire and streams of Blood, and performs unheard of Exploits, he envies the Commander's Splendor and Glory, and sullies his great Actions with some little artful Invention: This brings in the Scenes of *Blenheim*, *Ramellies* and *Oudenard*, to blacken the Character of the *British* General, who gain'd those unparallel'd Victories. The House of Commons arraign'd the Duke of *Marlborough*, whom they knew to be no Friend to *France*, or to their Proceedings: They charg'd that Duke with the Crimes of taking away the Soldiers daily
Bread,

Bread, and great Sums of the publick Money. The first Impeachment every private Centinel in *Flanders* prov'd to be unjust; and as to the last, the Two and a Half *per Cent.* was the Duke's own Perquisites, belonging to him as General of the Army.

To open this Point further, that the whole Charge was nothing but Spite. The Duke of *Ormond*, who never fought the Enemy in *Flanders*, had allow'd him for his Equipage and other Incomes, above Forty Thousand Pounds *per Annum*; which is more than the Duke of *Marlborough* ever made of being General, tho' he was oblig'd to give great Sums to Spies for secret Intelligence.

This Act was to me as a Sleep or a Dream. I could not have thought there were such detrac'ting Animals then to be seen in the Senate-House.

Art. IX. 'Tis pity I am restrain'd for Want of Room, new Matter flows in upon me; very strange Scenes may be present-ed, and here's one as black as any yet set forth; that is, The House of Commons declaring the Lord *Townsend*, now one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to be an Enemy to the Queen and Government, only for being so faithfull to his Country in the last Reign, as to make a Treaty for securing a good Barrier to the States of *Holland*, and the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover*.

I have examin'd the Actions of foreign Spies, employ'd to get Intelligence; but never found any of that Train to act so apparently against their Sovereign's Interest, as this one Instance recommends to my View.

Art. X. I have seen a pretty Device made by a *Turk*, who represents a *Bassia* kneeling before the Grand Seignior, to tell him, That the very declaring a War against the Christians, would be an effectual Victory gain'd over them. This Allusion very well comes in with the Gloss put upon all that was in Agitation at the Court of *Great Britain*. The Parliament thank'd the Queen for the good foundation of Trade that was settled by the Peace, tho' there was nothing at all in it, but what their own vain Fancies imagin'd, or what they had a mind to make the People believe, to keep their Character in Reputation, and so fully the Beauty of those who laid their dark Practices open as plain as the North Stars appear in the Sky in a clear Night, when the Moon is first upon its Change.

Some of the following Articles will discover this very naturally, and prove, That all our Trade abroad, especially to *Spain*, is entirely ruin'd.

Art. XI. Now I am upon drawing out Emblems, I'll tell of a Picture hung up in one of the Palaces of the old *Roman* Emperours. A Senatour was represented Courting a very beautiful *German* for a Mistress, and settling upon her the greatest Part of his Inheritance, before he had ever obtain'd an Assurance of the last Favour.

This

This Moral of the Lady suits the Subtily of the *French King's* acting with respect to *Dunkirk*: To draw us into the Snare, he promis'd that Fort should be demolish'd, without giving the least Intimation, that *Mardyke*, like the *Phanix*, was to be rais'd out of its Ruins; and made as good, or a better, Fortification and Harbour.

I must here ask one Question, Whether they who sign'd the Peace, were not either guilty of Bribery, or like the Senator in the Picture, in not adding one Article to debar *France* from making and erecting any strong Hold near *Dunkirk*, or on the neighbouring Coast.

Art. XII. I can never introduce a better Pattern, than the Unjust Steward in the Gospel, who order'd his Lord's Debtors to write down speedily for himself, one Fifty Measures of Oil, and another Twenty Measures of Wheat. Thus it was exactly with the late Ministry. To keep themselves in their Posts of Profit and Honour, they did not forget to diminish the Revenues of the Crown, and burden the Subject, by giving high Salaries and good Places to all their dear Friends in the House of Commons, and without Doors.

Do but enquire into the Number of Court-Favourites, at the Demise of the Queen, and you'll find a vast Multitude of them enter'd in the List.

Art. XIII To serve a Turn upon an extraordinary Occasion, a Plot was contriv'd never before invented in any Reign; and that was, To bring into the House of Peers in one Day Twelve new Lords: Without which wonderful Scheme, several recent Exploits had been blown up in the very Embryo. The Majority of the House of Peers before that, and other such Promotions, were entirely in the Nation's Interest, and against having *Spain* and the *West Indies* given up to the House of *Bourbon*.

Art. XIV. I'll here use the Words of a noble Peer. *The Crown of Great Britain* (says he) *having drawn in the Catalans to declare for the House of Austria, and engag'd to secure and support those brave People, they were by the late Administration forsaken and given up to Destruction; that Lord might have said to be massacred.* For I look upon that Act as one of the most inhumane and barbarous, that any *Turk*, *Jew*, or *Heathen* ever committed; and one day, I am sure (if there is a God) their Innocent Blood must be accounted for.

Art. XV. From the Vigour of a true *English Spirit*, I cannot but set forth the extraordinary Zeal many Noble Lords in the House of Peers had for the Queen and the Nation's Safety; several of those great Heroes voted to have a Reward set upon the Pretender's Head. To suppress this their known Affection with a specious Pretence, one of Her Majesty's Privy Counsellors rose up and said, *It was an hainous Offence, and against the Principles of a Christian, to offer any such Reward.*

By

By that Expression it was plain the Honourable Lord thought, That the Pretender's single Life was of greater Value than Fifty Thousand innocent *Catalans*, whom he had occasion'd by his Counsel to fall a bloody Sacrifice to the Ambition of King *Philip*, who had no Right at all to the Crown of *Spain*: For they were the real Subjects of King *Charles II.* Which entirely takes off the black Character of Rebels, as some of our Authors call them, to please the *French* and the *British* Court-Party.

Art. XVI. It would puzzle *Horace* and *Juvenal*, two of the greatest Satyrists of the Universe (if they were now living) to make just Reflections upon the ignoble Actions of the late Practitioners in State-Affairs, Those Princely Poets would find so much Change of Matter to go upon, that they could not well tell where to begin or where to end their Compositions. In the last Reign, about Four Thousand Pounds *per Annum* were constantly sent to the *Scotch* Highlanders, tho' they were known to be for the most part, either rank Papists, or declar'd Jacobites. This was (as the Ministry then pretended) to keep those *Scots* quiet. I am sorry the Queen, who before the Peace gave Laws to all *Europe*, should at last appear so little in the sight of the World, as to give Money to her own Subjects, to restrain them from open Rebellion.

Art. XVII. Here I shall usher in a very notable Example of what Respect was paid to the present King, when Elector of *Hanover*. On *Monday* the 12th of *July* last, a Writ was demanded by his Minister of the late Lord Chancellor *Harcourt*, for the Duke of *Cambridge*, now Prince of *Wales*, to come into *Great Britain* and sit in the House of Peers: That Minister of his Electoral Highness, who ask'd for this Writ, was for no other Offence forbid the Court, and he immediately departed for *Hanover*.

I cannot here also omit mentioning the high Affront put upon our present King. That before his Accession to the Throne, his Royal Highness was only pray'd for in a jejune Manner, as Elector of *Brunswick*; as if that Illustrious Person had no Name or other dignify'd Title.

Art. XVIII. This Article will afford little less Matter of Speculation than the preceding. Besides the Three disrespectful Letters sent to *Hanover*, which were printed, the Government dispatch'd another still more reflecting upon that Royal Family: The Lord *Bol-----ke* was thought to be the Penman of that last Letter, and of Two of the former. By these Steps, we see the Pains that were then taken to break off the Friendship between *Great Britain* and that Illustrious Family.

Art. XIX. I shall here introduce a Passage worthy the Remark of every true *Britain*. Some short Time before the Queen's Death, Sir *Patrick Lawless*, a *Roman* Catholick, who formerly

formerly was the Pretender's Minister at *Madrid*, had a private Audience of her Majesty : This Audience gave just grounds of Jealousy to the Nation, and occasion'd many Observations and Reflections among all Parties.

Art. XX. Now I am again to speak that a Peace was enter'd upon with *France*, in direct Violation of the Eighth Article of the Grand Alliance. I shall here set it down *Verbatim*.

The Eighth Article of the Grand Alliance.

That none of the Parties shall make Peace without the consent of the other, nor before they have obtain'd a convenient Satisfaction for the Emperour, and a Security for the Dominions and Trade of the English and Dutch, and procur'd that the Crowns of France and Spain be never re-united under the Same Prince ; and that the French be never Masters of the Indies submitted to Spain ; or that they be permitted to Trade in that Country directly or indirectly ; nor before they have obtain'd for the English and Dutch those Rights, Privileges and Franchises for their Trade in Spain and the Mediterranean, which were enjoy'd unacr Charles II. by virtue of Treaties, Custom, or any other Title whatsoever.

This Eighth Article of the Grand Alliance shews the strong Obligation Great Britain was under, not to treat upon Peace separately, and how the late Ministry in doing of it Acted against Honour and the Law of Nations.

Art. XXI. None who knows any thing of the Matter can say, the Conferences with the Allies were fairly carry'd on in every respect : This I am sure of, That what pass'd secretly between the Queen and the Confederates, was generally discover'd to *France* ; so that the latter were treated by our Ministers as Enemies, and the *French* as Friends. What Answer can those Gentlemen give for this, who were employ'd in the Negotiations in *London*, at *Paris*, and at *Utrecht* ?

Art. XXII. I can't forget to give the Reader a very remarkable Instance of the extraordinary Affection we had for the *French* King in every Particular : That Monarch told the Cardinal *de Noailles*, after the Peace was Sign'd, *That the Enemies Troops had enter'd his Country.*

This Expression of that Prince shews the Danger he thought himself in before the Peace, and how secure he was afterwards. Sure no Reward can be too great for his Majesty to give those Gentlemen, who had so great a Deference for him, as to save his Country, and Sacrifice their own.

Art. XXIII. Some Pretence may be made to break Leagues or Alliances, when a Sovereign Prince or State meets with the entire Loss of a Battel, or any great Overthrow, or a Domestic Rebellion, or the want of Men or Money : Such Accidents as these take off the stain and character of Perfidiousness. Great Britain had none of these Pleas to make : She always won Victories not lost them, and was the Glory and Crown of all the other Allies ; the very Regent Star that appear'd more bright than

all the other Constellations ; and to see that fall from its high Orb, and leave its neighbouring Companions, startled all the other Inhabitants.

Art. XXI. Out of Respect to the Memory of my deceased Sovereign, I shall take notice of not one in twenty of the Speeches and Promises She made of inviolably maintaining Her Royal Word ; but to clear my Conduct in writing this Tract, one Expression of Her Majesty I am oblig'd to mention. She assur'd the States and Prince *Eugene*, That they should not suffer by the Change of the former Ministry ; but that Her Troops should joyn their Army, and act in Concert with it ; when at the same time the Duke of *Ormond's* Order was sign'd and sent away not to fight the *French*.

Art. XXV. It is not at all agreeable to me to say, that immediately after Her Majesty had forgot to keep Her Royal Word, and Her Troops were drawn off from the Allies, Prince *Eugen*. was surpriz'd in his Camp, with the Loss of Four Thousand Men, a strong Pass taken by the *French*, with a Town or two, and the whole Confederate Army in danger of being entirely routed and cut to pieces ; nothing but a Miracle sav'd them and all *Flanders*.

Art. XXVI. I think my self oblig'd to bring in a very notable Example of the Subtily of the *French* King. As soon as he saw the Crown of *Great Britain* favour his Interest, by calling back Her Troops from doing him any further Injury ; he, like a subtil Gamester who wins at Play, stood upon very high Terms at the Conference at *Utrecht* ; for the Emperor, tho' deserted by all his Allies, made better Terms for himself, than the Bishop of *London* and the Lord *Strafford* propos'd for him. Read the Treaty of *Baden*.

Art. XXVII. It is necessary here in a few Words to tell the World That the War was begun to bridle the Power of *France* and *Spain*, and entirely to subdue the latter, in order to encrease the *British* Trade to those Parts ; but by the Peace (as we have it) both those Crowns reign Conquerors over *Europe* ; and all the Allies, as well as the *English*, are infinite Losers by the Treaty.

Art. XXVIII. No Person can express a greater Grief than my self for the Loss we sustain'd, in making a Separation between the *English* and the Confederate Forces. Those Troops in a whole Body might have done Wonders ; for after the gaining of one Victory more, the Army might have march'd up to the very Gates of *Paris* ; and there was twenty to one odds, humanely speaking, of Success in the Enterprize ; every thing was concerted by all the Generals for the Battel, and Twelve Hours would have ended the grand Dispute.

For a further Proof of this, after that fatal Separation of the Confederate Troops, so small a Body as about Fifteen Hundred

dred Horse went and rais'd Contributions within sight of the *French* Court, and put the City of *Paris* into the utmost Confusion. Some of the Officers who headed that small Body of *Cavairy*, were of opinion, That had their Number been doubled, they might have destroy'd, or at least plunder'd the whole City of its richest Effects, and have brought away Hostages, which would have commanded a Peace for *Europe* upon any Terms requir'd.

Art. XXIX. There is no stronger Argument in the World to be brought, than that we were to be sold and given up to Ruin, if we do but look back, and see the *Spanish* Monarchy settled upon King *Philip* and his Heirs. That was the chief Point the *French* King wanted to have granted; and the sole End for which the Confederates fought, and ventur'd the sacrificing of their own Dominions, for the gaining of that Monarchy.

Art. XXX. I would desire any *English* man, who maintains and stands up in defence of the late Administration, to tell me, Whether the Council of *Spain* is not guided by that of *Paris*. They are both but as one Kingdom and Body Politick. At the late Siege of *Barcelona*, the *French* engag'd chiefly in the Combat; their Prince had most Men and Ships there, and his Generals were the principal Commanders.

If this be true, it follows, that the *French* can and will upon Occasion break off the Act of Renunciation; and who can tell but there are private Articles agreed upon between both Kings.

Art. XXXI. Among all the Articles I have yet been treating of, there's none produces a fairer Appearance than this, That *Spanish* Dollars have as great an Influence over some Men as *French* Gold: As for Instance, General *Stanhope* had settled a very advantageous Treaty of Commerce with King *Charles II.* the present Emperour. That Treaty was rejected as prejudicial to the Publick. Peruse the General's Scheme, and compare it with the Three Articles relating to the Trade with *Spain*, as by the Treaty now concluded, and then the whole Treasonable Act will appear in its true and proper Circumstances.

Art. XXXII. Before I was let into any of the Secrets of the Cabinet-Councils at Home, I read in the Foreign Prints, That the Duke of *Savoy* was to be made King of *Sicily*. This piece of News I could not at first give credit to, till I read it in the Treaty.

I found by that Step, a new Pretender set up to claim the Crown of *Great Britain*, if the other Pretender to it should drop off, or any other favourable Opportunity offer. And here *France* has a considerable Accretion of Power also.

Art. XXXIII. The more I think of Affairs, the more I am surpriz'd. I cannot imagine, but for the Four last Years, all the Men at Court were in a *Delirium* or asleep; since the E-

lector of *Bavaria* appears with Majesty and a Crown: He is made King of *Sardinia*. This is his Reward for revolting from his Sovereign Prince, for betraying the Counsels of King *William*, and for putting *Flanders* into the Enemy's Hands by treacherous Practices.

Art. XXXIV. To sell Kingdoms and Countries to an Enemy is a black Action, not to be pardon'd; but what can be done to a Man, who sacrifices his Religion for Gain. The Protestant Interest has entirely suffer'd in leaving the Emperour to make Peace by himself. For upon the forsaking of that Prince, he refus'd at the Treaty of *Baden* to let the Protestant Potentates of the Empire re-establish their Religion, according to the Peace of *Ryswick*. The deserting of the Protestant Interest in *France* and *Piedmont* will be mention'd in another Article.

Art. XXXV. It would be endless to enumerate all the sad Instances that occur by the Breach of Faith. No Peace can be Glorious to a Nation, where it does not answer the Design for which the War was begun: And that Peace must be dishonourable and base, which is made to the Disadvantage of the Subject.

Then I ask the Lords of *Oxford* and *Bolenbroke*, or the late Lord Chancellor, with the Bishop of *London* and the Earl of *Straford*, or any other Person who had a hand in the Treaty, wherein the Publick has gain'd any thing, and not lost by it?

Art. XXXVI. Self-Interest us'd to be the standing Rule for Men to practice by, but now it is laid aside; unless some say, The Advantage of their Country is separate from their own. *France* is permitted by the Treaty to trade to the *West-Indies*, which she never was allow'd before, by any Treaty, League, or Agreement made by the former Kings of *England*, or any other Princes or States of *Europe*.

This Article was the Mark of a great Respect paid to the *French* Monarch, and a sure Sign of no less Disregard to the *British* Nation.

Art. XXXVII. He must be well skill'd in Arithmetick, that can count up all the Presents made to the *French* King, by the Loyal People of the *English* Council. The Power of *France* is mightily augmented by King *Philip's* Possession of *Spain*, the Duke of *Savoy's* of *Sicily*, and the Elector of *Bavaria's* of *Sardinia*: for her Monarchy can command any of these Princes at pleasure, especially the two latter, whose Frontiers border upon his own Dominions; so that look every where into the Treaty, some Article or other has a Clause in it very agreeable to the Interest of *France*.

Art. XXXVIII. To weaken an Ally, and strengthen an Enemy, appears to be a very strange Paradox; but here it falls in course. Several Towns in *Flanders* were by the Treaty given from the *Dutch* to the *French*, for Frontier-Garrisons. That Point

Point in weakening the States, at the same time pulls down part of the Bulwark which should defend and support *Great Britain* from the Invasion of *Romish* Armies: For this was ever my fixt Maxim, That if the *Hollanders* once fall a Victim, the *English* must be likewise sacrific'd.

Art. XXIX. I have read in History of a Person born with two Faces, one Fair, the other Black: This brings into my Mind the Men of our Times, who make an appearance to the World of what they are not. The giving up the Interest of the Protestants in *France*, *Germany* and *Piedmont*, is directly contrary to the Declaration of the late Ministry and Parliament, for securing the Rights and Privileges of the Establish'd Church. And the Act of Schism cannot be thought to have any other View in it, than to set Protestants at home into an endless Flame, that nothing can quench but Seas of Blood spilt in Civil War. In this Act, those pretended Protectors of the Protestant Interest are fairly describ'd. For to crown the intended Work, the Schism-Act must needs reach to *Ireland*, where there is not above one Protestant to eight Papists, reckoning the whole Number together of all different Opinions; so that the Protestants in that Kingdom, before His Majesty came to the Throne, were daily in fear, and expected to be massacred.

The King in His Declaration confirms my Sentiments in this Point: His Royal Person tells the Subject, *That the Establish'd Church may be maintain'd in all its Rights, without the least impairing the Toleration, allow'd by Law to Protestant Dissenters, so agreeable to Christianity, and so necessary to the Trade and Riches of the Kingdom.*

The Character of the Members of the Church of *England* was formerly so remarkable for Lenity to Dissenters, and even to *Roman* Catholicks, that none could stain or blemish her Reputation. That very Title made the Church Glorious, and brought into its Communion vast Numbers of Profelytes of all Sects.

Art. XL. The Account I receiv'd in *May* last out of *Holland*, a little surpriz'd me: I thought it was a meer Fiction indited by some discontented Whig; but upon Enquiry I found the Relation to be real matter of Fact. The Lord *Strafford* told the Deputies of the States, that he had Orders to declare in the Name of the Queen his Mistress, That if they treated with the Emperour on the Barrier, without admitting a *British* Minister into the Conference, Her Majesty would forthwith renounce all Engagements with the States.

This Article shews the slender Thread of Friendship that joyn'd together the two principal Protestant Powers of *Europe*, and how eager some Men were to break off all Correspondence on that side; which Breach must of necessity have hasten'd the intended Restauration.

Art. XLI. As I was looking the other Day among my Waste Papers, I found a Letter of an old Date out of *Ireland*. My Correspondent there tells me, That on the First of *May* last, the Privy Council of *Ireland* rejected the Mayor and Sheriffs of *Dublin* chose by the Aldermen, whereby all Proceedings at Law ceas'd in that City.

This Election was made void, because the Gentlemen so chosen, were not then as Mad as the Times, to bring in Popery as a Deluge upon that distressed Kingdom. The worthy Recorder, and a great many other Persons of Distinction, who voted for those true Protestants, had fallen a Sacrifice to the Rabble, if Captain *Hales*, who is noted for his Zeal to his Country, had not seasonably come in with some Guards to their Relief: For which Noble Action, that Officer was appointed to be discarded. But now his Enemies, the late Ministry there, are in the utmost Consternation, and expect their deserved Doom.

Art. XLII. I have by me most of the particular Occurrences of *Ireland*, from the time of the Change of the Ministry there. None of those Packets afford me any Matter of Comfort: For the last House of Commons of that Kingdom, who were true Patriots, seeing the Danger that was coming upon them, by the late Administration, address'd the Queen to remove Sir *Constantin Phipps*, Chancellor; but were deny'd. And for that Address, and other such like generous Actions, in favour of the Protestant Religion, that Parliament was dissolv'd.

King *James II.* and Father *Peters* never drove on so fast for Popery, as the Men of the Last Times.

Art. XLIII. Now I am engag'd in the Affairs of *Ireland*, I shall give some further Particulars of Matters there. On the 14th of *May* last, a Hundred and Fifty Men listed for the Pretender, were all in a Body in that Kingdom, ready to take Shipping for *France*. The Plot came to such Ripeness, that there wanted nothing but Men and a little more *English* Money to bring it to its full Perfection.

Art. XLIV. To turn my Thoughts upon the whole Compass of State-Affairs, would plunge me into an Immensity of Business; but in some Points I cannot restrain my Pen. I must tell that the *Roman* Catholics in *Ireland*, for the Four last Years, have been so countenanc'd, that they of late have appear'd every where in great Numbers. They began to arm daily, and talk of a speedy Revolution to their Advantage. Here comes in the most perfect Scene of all; the new modelling of the Army in *Ireland*. Nine of the Battalions were to be entirely laid aside there, and Seventy two Officers, who were thought improper Instruments for the Design in Hand. In the room of those Nine Battalions, Fifteen new ones were to be rais'd, that should be sure to obey all Commands, one of which was said to be appointed for a Popish Lord.

The general Change His Majesty has lately made in both Kingdoms, is a sufficient Proof of this Article, and all that I have hitherto said.

Art. XLV. Sir *William Temple*, in a Book intitl'd *His Life and Negotiations*, perfectly sets forth the Corruption of a set of *English* Ministers that favour'd Popery, and the ambitious Designs of *France* and *Rome*. I wish every Freeholder would read that Book, before the next Election comes on: For therein he would see, particularly in the Preface, the Portraits of the late Statesmen exactly drawn out.

Art. XLVI. The great Evils of the Times tormented my Life, before the Arrival of His Majesty, and gave me much Perplexity; especially that Affair of Two *Irish* Officers, one Captain *K——ly* and —— *Willian*, who in *June* last list'd Men for the Pretender in and about *London*. One of those Officers had a Certificate sign'd at *St. Germain's* the 19th of *May*, by the Lord *Middleton*, Secretary of State to the Pretender.

Can any Reason be assign'd for raising Soldiers in *France*, *Lorraine*, *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, if a Scheme was not laid here in *England* by his very good Friends to bring him in?

Art. XLVII. It would tire out the Reader, to enlarge upon all the Heads of Practice carry'd on to attain the end lately propos'd. The Insolences of Papists, Non-Jurors and Jacobites was come to that height, That a Month before the Queen's Death, they publickly asserted the Pretender's Right to the Crown, and drank his Health, by the Name of King *James III.*

Art. XLVIII. I believe our Church was never so near Expiring since the Reign of Queen *Mary*, as it was Three Months agoe; it was attack'd on all Sides, by its own Members within, and the Papists without: For this I can testify, that on the 24th of *June* last above a Hundred *Roman* Catholicks had a Feast at the Sun-Tavern in the *Strand*. The Company was admitted by a Printed Ticket, in which was the Image of a Pope or a Popish Saint treading Heresy under foot: By this Device we may see the *Roman* Catholicks pointed out to us before-hand, what they intended to do with our Establish'd Church, and the Dissenting Protestants.

The Hundred Thousand Pounds Reward lately offer'd by the King's Command to take the Pretender, upon his Landing in *Great Britain* or *Ireland* I hope will entirely Suppress these bold and Publick Combinations, and the acting of Treason openly within the Verge of the Court.

Art. XLIX. To have a *Genius* great enough to speak for Truth is admirable, and the Reverse of it is as base: I'll give an Instance of both: In *July* last the Right Honourable the Lord *Hallifax* represented in a Speech in the House of Peers, by a Letter from *Spain*, That the most beautifull Branch, the Trade to that Kingdom had been notoriously neglected, and given up by
the

the late Ministry at the Signing of the Peace, for the Recovery of which (his Lordship said) we enter'd into the late Expensive War.

Here the Lord *Bolcnbroke* rose up and said, *He believ'd this Letter was Counterfeit*, and that there was nothing of truth in it. But to the great mortification of that Noble Peer, *Sir William Hodges* and Thirty more Merchants Trading into *Spain*, made it appear, that they could not deal to that Kingdom without losing *Twenty per Cent* at least.

Art. L. It would wear out one's Spirits to pry into every Circumstance that was Acted, even of vast Moment; Few Persons in the Country had the Account, that the House of Peers address'd the Queen to know the Names of those who advis'd her Majesty, to make the Treaty of Commerce with *Spain*; the Queen was pleas'd to refuse it. Whereupon one of the Lords said, *It was then to no Purpose to sit in the House, if they could have no Redress from their Sovereign.*

Art. LI. To cast our Eyes all round us upon every Object, we shall be sometimes carry'd away with false Appearances, and be mistaken; to prevent this, I'll only speak of Matter of Fact: It was lately prov'd in the House of Peers, That *Arthur More Esq;* receiv'd a Letter by the foreign Mail importing, That if he did not confirm or maintain the Three Articles relating to the Commerce with *Spain*, he must not expect to have the Two Thousand *Louis d'Ors per Annum*, as promis'd.

See what Force the *French King's* Image stamp'd upon a Piece of Gold has over some of the good Subjects of *England!* The Receipt of the Figure and the Money, tempts them to sacrifice the whole Interest of their Country. I shall not here speak of *Mr. More's* famous Practices in the *South-Sea Company*, nor of a certain Lord, who would have made him as innocent as a new-born Infant.

Art. LII. That Posterity may know what was doing in all Parts of *Great Britain* to extirpate our Church and our Liberties, I shall produce the following Account from *Scotland.* On the 17th of *May 1714,* the General Assembly of the Church of that Kingdom drew up an Address to Her Majesty, wherein they set forth the extraordinary Growth of Popery there, and the bold and insolent Carriage of Popish Bishops, Priests and Jesuits; and their going publickly to Mass, and confirming great Numbers of People, as in Popish Countries.

In the same Address, they likewise represent the ill Behaviour of those of the Episcopal Persuasion, who transgress'd the Laws of Her Majesty, and either altogether omit the Prayers for the Queen, or else make such Alterations of those Prayers, as render them equally applicable to the Pretender.

Art. LIII. When one Branch of the Constitution acts against the other by little artful Inventions, there's great fear of Outrages:

rages : So it was in *Scotland* not long since. The Highlanders appear'd in Arms, and Rendevouz'd ; and in all Parts of the Low Countries in that Kingdom, the People were putting themselves into a Posture of Defence ; they often privately exercis'd in Barns and other Places. Those People had also nam'd their Generals and other Officers, who were to command them, upon the first Notice of the Pretender's appearing on the Coast.

Art. LIV. I have a fine Example to give the Publick of the Loss and Disgrace a Gentleman met with for declaring the Truth in Vindication of his Country. *Robert Monckton* Esq; in *July* last was turn'd out from being Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, only for making some Discoveries concerning the Treachery acted by the Treaty with *Spain*.

This was the Reward then given to a Man, for telling the Names of those that were concern'd in the late Conspiracy, to turn all Things topsy-turvy.

Art. LV. No Nation was ever so much abus'd in all Respects as the *Britans* were, by the last Managers of the State. The Accounts out of *Spain* of dragooning our Merchants, and exacting great Sums of Money from them, are sufficient Marks of it, and shew what a brave Peace our late Ministry of famous Memory, have purchas'd for us ; and yet the House of Commons more than ten times address'd, and thank'd the Queen for it. Observe the suddain Change in the Face of Affairs : Since the 19th of *August* last, when those Matters were prov'd before the Lords Justices, all the *Spanish* Treaty-Mongers, and those who applauded them, are asham'd of the Act, and for excusing themselves as ignorant of the Matter. But this does not at all lessen the general Indignation and Resentment of the People, against those concern'd in that extraordinary Treaty of Commerce.

Art. LVI. To look into the secret Chambers of Mens Hearts, there'll appear but a melancholy Scene ; and to take a view of the Calamities that were coming upon us as a mighty Torrent, will but encrease the blackDarkness. And indeed, had not the Plot been timely prevented, we should soon have heard the Rattling of Chains, and the Noise of Slavery in our Ears : Had the Queen liv'd a few Weeks or Days longer, the Forces in *Great Britain* would have been Reformed, and in stead of Protestant Officers, we should have seen *Irish-men*, and others of their Principles at the Head of those Troops ; a List of those Officers who were to be turn'd out in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, I can produce if requir'd.

I will not say, what they design'd to do with her Majesty, when the Army had declar'd for the Restauration in both Kingdoms ; since I know She is gone to a better Place than they would have provided for her Sacred Person : However, I can tell what

would have been the Fate of all her Protestant Subjects, upon that Revolution; it is, to Offer up Sacrifice to Idols, or burn, or be confin'd in Dungeons.

Art. LVII. Vain is that Religion which inspires its Votaries, to promote its Interest with Terrours and Punishments! what was resolv'd upon, I will not undertake to shew till it is confirm'd to me (as it was reported) That their Excellencies the Lords Justices had discover'd the Project of an offensive and defensive Alliance between *Great Britain, France, Spain, Sweden,* and the King of *Sicily*, which under Colour of maintaining the Latter in his new Throne, was mainly design'd against the Emperour, the *Dutch*, and in the Consequence of it, against the most Serene House of *Hanover*. Let that be as it will, there are other sufficient Proofs enough to give so much light into the Matter, that I have no need to say one Word more of the Subject: Only that our Affairs were come to such a nice *Crisis*, that had the Queen been afflicted with a lingering Sickness, nothing could have sav'd us, unless that unexpected Miracle had happen'd, of the Pretender's Fleet and Army meeting with the same Fate as the *Ægyptians* did in pursuing the *Israelites*, the Favourites of Heaven, over the *Red Sea*.

Art. LVIII. The Laws of *Europe* condemn and execute a poor Man, tho' he only steals to satisfy hungry Nature; yet in *England* we have no Statute to take away the Life of a Wealthy Person, who robs his Prince's Treasury Yearly, of Ten Thousand times the Sum, that the starv'd Peasant dies for. It is certain, That the Publick Money unaccounted for in the Exchequer is an Immense Sum: There's near Four times the Cash wanting in the Four Last Year's Reign, more than in all the time that the Earl of *Godolphin* was Treasurer: That High Officer of the Crown had many urgent Occasions to distribute great Sums of Money, which might then be of good use to the Publick; but the late Lord Treasurer had none; The War was ended, no private Rewards for Services done, were necessary in his Time.

Art. LIX. The greatest Stains upon Humane Life are Simony and Bribery; and yet we have too Frequent Examples of both: The latter is more common and practis'd publickly, even sometimes to the betraying of whole Kingdoms. There are few but what will own, That a great part of the Five Hundred Thousand Pounds rais'd for the Civil List is gone Invisibly: Whether it was given to procure a Peace with *France*, or a Parliament to Vote that Peace Honourable, I shall not now go about to dispute.

However, this I am certain of, That Fifty and a Hundred Pounds Sterling have been given for one single Vote, for a Person to serve in the House of Commons, not four Years agoe.

Art. LX. What happens to obscure Persons, lives and dies in Secret; but the Actions of those in high Spheres, are the Subject

ject of Praise and Blame. None can deny but that the Forces in *Great Britain* and *Ireland* were reduc'd to so small a Body of Troops, that they were not strong enough to suppress a Rebellion at Home, or prevent an Invasion from Abroad. All that I can say in defence of this our Nakedness is, That if a Project had taken Effect, as mention'd in a Book lately publish'd by a Subject of *Ireland*, there would have been no need of Soldiers to put an end to the main Point in Dispute.

The learned Author of that Treatise lays down a Scheme, to joyn the Church of *Rome* with that of *England*. There's one thing I suspected by his new Model, That if the Plot had taken with the good People of *England*, we should soon after that Union have seen come over from foreign Parts, numerous Trains of Cardinals, Popish Bishops, Priests, Abbots, Priors, Jesuits, Monks and Nuns, who would officiate in our Churches, Prayers for the Dead, *Ave-Maria's*, Invocations of Saints, with a hundred other trifling Ceremonies and strange Miracles: Besides I cannot but fancy, that our Altars would have been adorn'd with many gilded Images in Honour of deceas'd Popes, and of Men who had brought about outrageous Murders and bloody Massacres, to extirpate Heresy out of *Europe*.

Art. LXI. I come now to open the Eyes of every Spectator with a very remarkable Instance; it is a vile Abuse, and relates to the Queen's Person. I will not say all the Cabinet-Counsellors were concern'd in the Act: Thus far many of them went, They charg'd one another, in her Royal Presence, with such bitter Reproaches about the Conduct of the Administration, that Her Majesty soon after intimated to several of her Attendants, that she could not outlive what had happen'd. This Scene apparently shews, that the Council in their reciprocal Impeachments had betray'd their Intentions in so open a Manner, that the Affairs of the Nation were absolutely past Retrieving, to the View of their Sovereign, whom they had kept waking till Two a Clock in the Morning, with a continual Jarring and confus'd Noise.

Here comes in the grand Suspicion of what was to be done: When they saw the Queen ready to expire, and all their Practices dash'd at once, there appear'd an Agony and Terrour in the Countenance of some of the Prime Favourites: One fainted away, and others discover'd their Fear of the Day of Reckoning they saw ready to dawn. Had Innocency possess'd their Minds, nothing of these Disputes would have happen'd, nor any sad Apprehensions seiz'd their Spirits.

Art. LXII. All the Histories of late or former Ages cannot produce more lively Examples of Men desperate to engage in a violent Action, than this one Particular. The Lords Justices appointed by the King, looking into the large Catalogue of Mismanagements, their Excellencies found the Maritime Places,

particularly the Town of *Portsmouth*, the main Fort of all, unprovided both of Men and Warlike Stores, not able to make any Defence in case of a powerful Invasion, that might be expected, if Her Majesty had not been call'd off the Throne by sudden Death. The said Lords Justices charg'd the Lord *Bolenbroke* with this Neglect; his Lordship by plausible Arguments endeavour'd to throw off the Blame of that Nakedness upon the discarded Treasurer.

Thus have I seen, when Treason or a Rape has been committed in private by one, two, or more bad Men, the Prime Criminal is for shifting off the Fact to another, in hopes to escape the deserv'd Punishment.

Art. LXIII. Ever since the 1st of *August* last, I am like a Man that dreams, I can scarce believe I am yet awake. For before that Day, vast Numbers of Popish Priests, Jesuits, and the Pretender's Friends, came over from *France* to prepare the Way for the intended Restauration, and now they embark again in Troops for that Kingdom. The speedy Change His Majesty has made in the Government sends them away in Despair.

Art. LXIV. I look'd upon *Great Britain* three Months agoe, as *Noah* did upon the Old World: I saw it was threaten'd with a general Inundation: The Clouds were gathering every where, and the wiser Inhabitants preparing for themselves an Ark of Safety to fly to against the Breaking in of the Deluge.

The Matter was come to this Issue; several of the Half-Pay Officers were Closetted by a certain Noble-man and demanded, *Whether they would serve the Queen without asking Questions?* Which some prostituted Tools of the Projector, who were fit for any desperate Attempt readily accepted of, and were promis'd Companies in the Guards.

I'll conclude this remarkable Article with acquainting the Reader, That among the late Queen's Papers was found the Draught of a Will; but as the same was neither Sign'd nor Executed, I shall not mention the Contents of it, or make any particular Notes on that Subject.

Art. LXV. Here appears on the Stage, *The Secret History of the White Staff*: It is writ by a discarded Statesman, or Order, who takes great Pains, with his usual Wit and Subtilty, to vindicate his own Actions, and expose the Guilt of others. Had I acted his Part, Silence and Retirement should have been my Refuge; it's too plain, his Practice gave the first Stab to bleeding *Europe*, and was the original Spring of *Great Britain's* late fatal Mis-carriages.

As to the whole Scene of plausible Pretences made use of in the Book, to throw off the Stain of Guilt from his own Person, I refer the Reader to the Treatise it self, and to the Discovery he makes of the Train of Treason that was then carry'd on with great Vigour to destroy the whole Constitution. My Intention

tion is only to tell the World in few Words, the chief Heads of what that Statesman said to her Majesty at the resigning up of the White Staff.

He told the Queen, "It was with great Satisfaction on his own account, that he came to lay down what he never, but with a View to her Majesty's Interest, enjoy'd with any Comfort ; That the only Grief he conceiv'd in his Removal was, the Assurance he had that those People who pretended to succeed him, would embark her Majesty in impracticable Schemes, which if her Majesty's own Wisdom did not prevent, it would be her Ruin ; that the Measures they were upon, would embroil her, not only with her Neighbours and Allies abroad, but with her own Subjects at home ; that he would never cease to watch the Steps those Men should take to overthrow her Tranquillity, and made no question to detect the blackest Designs of a set of Persons, now pretending to serve her ; and to convince her Majesty, That they had sacrific'd her Peace and that of their Country to their own Avarice and Ambition ; that he had chosen to decline his private Advantages, rather than be concern'd, where he foresaw the Destruction of the Constitution ; and that these Men would defeat her Subjects of the Blessings which her Majesty had so often express'd her Desire of seeing them enjoy.

Thus he runs on in his wonted Cant to save himself from the impending Storm. After this Speech, he turn'd to the Privy Council then sitting, and told them, "How unequal they were to the Burden which they now pretended to take upon them, how disregardful they were of the Publick Tranquillity in comparison of their private Advantages. He then expos'd their new Schemes to themselves, and foretold what Distresses they would reduce themselves to in a little time ; putting them in mind *Of a Debt which they would owe to the National Justice at last, and how unwilling they would be to pay it.*

Had not he brought the Queen and Council into these inextricable Labyrinths, by his own Advice and Contrivance, I should have highly approv'd of the Speeches, and valu'd him upon that Account ; but since I know the Man that deliver'd them, I am surpriz'd at the Assurance he takes to contradict a Doctrine, which he himself had practis'd with unweari'd Diligence.

The Conclusion of *The Secret History of the White Staff* is Extraordinary: The Author of it very naturally represents the Consternation some of the Privy Counsellors were in, when they found themselves disappointed of the White Staff, upon the Queen's delivering of it to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*. The express Words of that Author are these :

"It would make up another Volume, and be a Secret History as full of Variety as this, and full as Entertaining, to give
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“ an Account, how Planet-struck they appear'd at this surprizing Blow ; what they said one to another after they had stood looking one upon another speechless and confounded for some Hours, at a private Assembly of all their Confederates, which was held upon the Occasion, where they gave Vent to their Passions, and broke out into all the Extravagances of Rage and Despair.; what desperate Measures their chief Leader propos'd, and what a full Consent of Treason against both Queen and Country those desperate Measures met with.

“ The Blast of Hell and the Rage of a Million of Devils be on this Cursed Staff (said he) *flinging the Purse, &c. on the Ground.* IT IS HE that has ruin'd us and broken all our Measures: Did I not warn you from breaking with him? (Said he) I told you always it was impossible to supplant him with the Queen: That she could never hear him speak, such was the Magick of his Tongue, without being enchanted with his Words; and that if he got but the Liberty for Five Words, he would undo us all.

“ *Give away the Staff!* said the Bis---- By *Lucifer*, I could not have believ'd she durst have done it. What can we do without it? We have but one Way left, *France* and the Lawful Heir; it must and shall be done, by G---d.

“ But whither do I launch! This is a Scene of such Consequence, fill'd with such a Complication of Villany, such a Discovery of the black Designs of great Numbers of Men, that it cannot be enter'd upon here; it must be related in a Volume by it self.

These are the very Words of the Author of the *Secret History of the White Staff*; and the Substance of what was confirm'd to me Two Days after the Demise of the Queen, by an honourable Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council, who then favour'd me with the Relation, and since assist'd with Matter to go on in this Work.

The *Examiner* and the whole Train of Authors of the same Figure, would now perform a singular piece of Service for their old Masters, if they would summons together all their Learning and Sagacity, to contradict with Truth this short History, and prove that I have fail'd to give an exact Account, how they went on Step by Step, from the Day they mounted the Saddle of the Government, to the very Hour of their last Exit; for I now look upon them all as dead Men, void of Motion, Pulse or Breath.

There are other Articles which I could draw up, to open a Scene still more clear, of the sudden Danger that was coming upon us; but this small Tract being only design'd to mention some particular Occurrences, I shall conclude in saying,

“ Long live the King’s Most Excellent Majesty, in Prosperity, Glory, and Honourable Successes ; may He be protected from Publick Violence and Secret Enemies, from Foreign Invasions and Domestick Rebellions ; may He be blest with a Faithful and Wise Privy Council, a Loyal and Sagacious Nobility, and a Trusty and Worthy Commonalty, to meet his Sacred Person in the Lower House of Parliament, enrich’d both with a Will and a Power to retrieve and call back that solid Peace and great Plenty, which late Councils and Parliaments unfortunately gave up and parted with : And may all the Freeholders endeavour by their Zeal and Unanimity, to be the happy Instruments of bringing these Publick Blessings upon *Great Britain* and *Ireland* ; and let all the People at every Election say *Amen*.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

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