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ACCOUNT

Manuscript,

ENTITUL'D,

Destruction the Certain Consequence of Division: Or, The Necessity of a Strict Union between all, who love the Present Government and Protestant Religion.

Written at the Desire of R----, Esq; and left with him at his Request, but since expos'd, contrary to his Promise, with Aspersions on the Author of the DEFECTION, &c.

Vane Ligur ----- Nequicquam tentasti lubricus artes. Virg.

LONDON,

Printed, and Sold by J. ROBERTS, in Warwick-lane. 1718. (Price 4 d.)





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ACCOUNT

Manuscript,

ENTITUL'D,

Destruction the Certain Consequence of Division: &c.

Y Defign in Publishing this Paper, is not altogether to defend the Defection consider'd, &c. since the Fa&s mention'd in that Pamphlet are either expressly, or tacitly, own'd by those Scribblers, not excepting

W. Esq; who have done it the Honour to all against it with their usual Billingsgate; but mow call'd upon to vindicate myself against n Ungenerous and Treacherous Attack, which reaks in upon all the Rules, that have been steem'd most sacred among Men.

A 2

There

There can be no Friendship so great, but by Variety of Events, may turn to open Enmity; and few have been sound so vile as to divulge, and betray those Secrets, which were the Effects of sormer mutual Considence; without this Caution, there can be no safe Converse about Matters of any Importance; ev'n between the nearest Friends: Whatever Differences, whatever private Quarrels, or Party-Breaches may happen, these Trusts ought always to be kept inviolable.

I can fay with Pleasure, that I have conform'd myself strictly to these Rules, with Mr. W----, in whose Confidence I had once the Honour (as I then esteem'd it) to have some Share; during which Time he often talk'd freely, both of Men and Things, which I never divulg'd; nor shall his present Usage provoke me to say any Thing, but what is necessary for my own Vindication; and to set some Facts right, which he has wholly misrepresented.

I having been often affur'd, that Two Great Persons had steady Resolutions to serve their Country; and that they were determin'd to take off those Burthens, with which the Dissertion were lately loaded, for their hearty Affection to the Protestant Succession, and to regulate the Universities; and do such other Things as were necessary for the Publick Good; but finding no Effects sutable to those Assurances, I began to suspect, it proceeded either from Weakness.

nefs, Fear, or felfish Views: Therefore, to four them on by all the Motives of Duty to their King, Love to their Country, and Regard to their own Credit, I wrote a Paper, which I refolv'd to print, or not, according as it shou'd affect their future Conduct.

It was A Dialogue between Two Scholars; One was to personate a Whigg, and the other a Tory; the Whigg being supposed to know what Reasons would most affect the Tory, endeavours to prove it his Interest to change Sides; the other, by Arguments drawn from the wretched Conduct, and weak Management of some then in Power, shewing they took no Step, but what was to the Prejudice of their own Side, pretends to prove, that the Government, if other Measures were not taken, could not long subsist; or what was next to it, must throw itself into Tory Hands for Protection.

This Dialogue (which at first had not near so many Things in it, and yet had been seen by some Great Men,) when it was enlarged, I sent to Mr. W-----, with this Compliment, that here He might see what his Enemies said of him, and what his Friends expected from him. Upon the Receiving it, Mr. W----- not only sent his Gentleman to see for me, who, not finding me, left a Letter at the Cosse-house, for me to come to his Master; but spoke to a Member of Parliament, if he saw me, to let me know he wou'd speak with me; and when I waited on him, hesaid, I do not know how to treat you, whether as a Friend, or an Enemy. To which I reply'd

piy'd, As a Friend to be fure. Upon this he endeavour'd to satisfy me of his Conduct in several Matters mention'd in that Paper; and aftur'd me, he had all the Intentions I cou'd wish, to promote the Interest I espous'd; and that tho' some Things, which we both desir'd, were not yet done, yet that I might depend on it, they shou'd be done in a proper Time; and then he treated me with a great Shew of Kindness, which he repeated as often as he saw me.

And I thought it some Mark of his Friendship, to receive this Letter from him,

Thursday Evening.

Sr

I Shall be glad to see you at my House on Saturday Evening about Seven. I am very sincerely,

 S^r

y most Faithful, Humble Servant,

Accordingly I waited on him, where I found with him a Noble Lord, just remov'd out of a great Post, with the Offer of a greater: He then seem'd very averse from Accepting it, yet declar'd, that Nothing shou'd change, or abate his Affection and Zeal for the Government, and the Service of his King; and Mr. Weesees saying then,

(as he had at other Times) that he faw into the Bottom of the Designs of his Enemies; and that They were very much mistaken, if they thought they cou'd make him throw up his Place; I was induc'd to hope, that if one wow'd continue in that Resolution, and the other cou'd be prevail'd on, to accept the best Post his Master had to bestow, that the Publick Business might easily go on without any further Alterations; or, without Things breaking out into that Flame they have since done. This caus'd me to use all the Arguments I cou'd then think of, to perswade the Noble Peer to change his Mind.

What afterwards made me hope, they might be willing to concur in all necessary Measures for Carrying on the Publick Good, was, that Noble Peer's seeming to acquiesce in the King's Pleasure, and Mr. W-----'s, ev'n at that Time, assuring me, that if a Bill was brought in for Repealing the A& about Occasional Conformity, he wou'd be for it.

And I made no doubt, but that he, if there was Occasion, wou'd come into proper Meafures for Reforming the Universities, since he was inquisitive about Precedents; particularly, he ask'd me, what Methods were taken in the late Times by the Parliament, with Relation to the Universities: Upon which, I (tho' in my Opinion what was done in the Reigns of Edw. 6. and Q. Elizabeth, were more pertinent Precedents,) gave him in Writing, a short Account, how they proceeded in their several Visitations.

That this was his real Opinion, I had the less Reason to doubt, since the chief Argument the M---- v us'd for the Passing the Septennial Act, was, that those Regulations cou'd not well be brought about without it. And I, being fenfible of the great Influence he had, and how much depended on the Part be wou'd act, endeavour'd to confirm him in these Sentiments, by Arguments chiefly drawn from the Interest of the Common Caufe. And he, having reflected with his usual Bitterness on a Noble Lord, said, that if I was at Leisure, he wou'd have me put my Thoughts, with Relation to the then Differences among St the Great Men. in Writing, and shew it him; saying, it wou'd be for his private Satisfaction; or Words to that Purpose. Upon which, I drew up an incorrect, unfinish'd Piece, Entitul'd, Destruction, &c. and the first Opportunity I had, I waited on him, expecting it shou'd then have been read over; but he desir'd that I wou'd let him carry it to Chelsea, where he shou'd have Leisure to peruse it; and that upon his Coming to Town he wou'd re-Upon this, I let him take it with store it. him, but the next Time I saw him, he, after having faid something of it, particularly, that the Character giv'n of the Tories was just, shew'd himself unwilling to part with it; and upon his Promifing it shou'd on no Account be divulg'd. I acquiesc'd in the Assurance he gave me, and left in his Hands that incorred Paper; which, were it for that Reason only, I wou'd never have trusted with any Man, but on whose Honour I thought I might have rely'd.

After a Man has us'd fuch an Artifice, to get a Manuscript into his Hands, which, in its wan Nature, supposes a Trust; and has, conrary to his Promise, divalg'd it, either in whole, or part, it can't sure be inconsistent with the trictest Rules of Honour, to let the World see now he came to be entrasted with it.

These Proceedings being truly represented, he Reader will easily discern with what Views was drawn in, to write the Paper entrusted with Mr. W----, who could not but think, I hou'd express myself very warmly in Relation to a Noble Person, who, according to the Information I received from him, had already brough one Minister into Disgrace, and was carrying on the same Design against others; and was forgetting the Excluding Ast dispensed with in Farour of certain Foreigners.

What shews, that he thought, when he had got this Manuscript into his Hands, he had wherewith to hinder me from Printing the Dialogue, s, that assoon as it was in his Possession, tho' a considerable While before he quitted his Poss, all the Correspondence I had with him was wholly lost. He dropp'd me with this cold Compliment, That I need not give myjelf the Trouble to come to him, 'till he fent for me.

Thus have I giv'n the Secret History of a Correspondence, which did not last long, it not beginning 'till some Months after the King went Abroad, and ending as before-mention'd.

Bit!

But tho' this Stratagem did not fucceed, and he found I was not to be aw'd into Silence, yet he now pretends by virtue of it, to enervate the Force of a late Pamphlet, and to turn the Facts there mention'd on other Perfons; by telling the World, 'Tis plain, by a Manuscript in his Custody, that this Pamphlet was written against other Persons; but that upon the Change of the Ministry, their Names were struck out, and his put in; and that he, (good Man) had such a Detestation for Calumny, that he gave the Author a Sum of Money not to publish it.

Now I dare appeal to any Man living, whether any Name need be written, to fliew to whom the Picture belongs; or whether at first Sight, ev'ry one will not fee, it cou'd be drawn for none but ----; or whether, 'tis not more likely, he, who, by mif-reprefenting a Noble Peer, drew me in to give a very wrong Character of him, wou'd not rather have giv'n Money to have a Paper printed, that reflected on the Person he mortally hated, than to hinder it; but this is of a Piece with his having fo great a Kindness for the present Ministry, and being to tender of their Honour, that out of meer Respect, he declines giving an Account of the Reasons, why he could no longer serve. He is, if you believe him, a Man of that Temper and Moderation, and has to much Regard to the Reputation of those, who, he complains, have us'd him ill, that he not only forbears to tell the World, what Things were to be impos'd on! on him, which he cou'd not in Honour comply with; but that when he finds a Man fo refolutely bent to publish Reflections on one of them, that he can't otherwise prevent it, he, rather than not do it, will part with a Sum of Money.

I have nothing to alledge in Excase of the Injustice done to a Noble Person, (whose Pardon I humbly beg,) but that I copy'd too exactly after the Picture he had drawn; and that tho' some of the Expressions might be my own, yet the Matter was wholly his; so that I only trusted him with his own Story, which he had no more Right to divulge, than if I had writ it in a Letter, or told it him in Confidence.

I was not the only credulous Perfon, many besides myself were at first as much impos'd on, about the Cause of those Misunderstandings; those upon the Spot having a great Advantage of possessing People in their Favour; but they were for the most part undeceiv'd, when Time discover'd the Intriegues, which, in the King's Absence, were carrying on here, the ill Consequences of which are daily more and more visible. Then the Character of a Noble Peer, which had been, for some Time, sully'd by the salte Things the Malice of his Enemies had suggested, shone out the brighter.

The Writer of the Manuscript does not change his Opinion of Men, as they are in, or out of high Posts, but as he thinks they deferve

of their Country, much less was that Paper writ to court one Side, and to libel the other, is very evident from the Character giv'n in it of Lord Sta---e, then Secretary of State, and which, in all Probability, he was never like to have seen, and was there mention'd to shew Mr. W----, that nothing cou'd turn so much to his Prejudice in the Opinion of all honest Men, as being at Variance with a Person, to whose Conduct he cou'd have no just Objection; since all he had to object amounted to no more, than that he thought no private Friendship was to be preserred to the Publick Interest: And to shew he was wholly govern'd by That, I, among other Things, said in that Manuscript,

'When they, (the Tories,) found the Court of Inguistion they had fer up here, cou'd not affict him, (so Prudent as well as Just had his Conduct been.) then, without Ree gard to what it wou'd cost the Nation, they thought it worth their While to fend proper Commissioners into Spain, to enquire into his Conduct; which, to their great Mortification, they found turn'd highly to his Ho-" nour; fince, as by his Answer to their Report, it appear'd, he had been so good an Husband for the Publick, that he religiously apply'd to its Sacred Service, what others would have ' thought they might have taken to themselves, and ' which Custom would have justify'd; and in one ' Article, viz. The Profit arising from the Re-' coining the Money in Spain, (for which he ' freely made himself Debtor') he sav'd to the Publick a very great Sum. This

This I shou'd not presume to have now quoted from the Manuscript, but in my own Vindication, to shew that I courted no Party, but spoke my Thoughts freely of Men, as I then thought their Actions deserved.

If great Men, when they fall out, wou'd shew their Opposition to each other, in striving who shou'd merit most of their King and Country; and when they chance to be remov'd, would not oppose those Measures themselves approv'd when in Power; but have so much Regard to their own Character, as not to act directly contrary to those Principles, they, 'till then, profess'd, the Publick wou'd be little concern'd in their Quarrels; but when Coveroufnefs; Ambition, and Revenge, hurry them on to facrifice ev'ry Thing, rather than not gratify those darling Passions, 'tis, then, the Right of ev ry Man, tho' ever so mean, according as he has Opportunity, to endeavour to compose those Breaches, or to make them as harmlels as poffible; but if he fails in the Attempt, and Things are carry'd on to the utmost Extremity, he has a Right to expole the guilty, and fliew those, who are deluded by them, the fatal Tendency of those Divisions.

As the first was the Design of the Manufcript, so the last was that of the Desettion considered, &c. and, therefore, 'tis no Wonder, if there be in both several Arguments to the same Purpose, tho' the former is much larger on this Head; and I am apt to believe, that

had it been consider'd as it ought, it wou'd have prevented all such Defection, as has since happen'd. And one wou'd think, that Mr. W-----had no Reason to value himself for having so many Things said to him, in a Paper entrusted with him, of the same Import with that contain'd in the Desection consider'd, &c. since it shew'd such a Jealousy of his suture Conduct, as can't sure pass for any great Compliment.

When the Manuscript was written, tho' there were Misunderstandings among the great Ones, yet then they did not appear to have any fuch ill Confequences, as afterwards happen'd; those that did not think themselves disoblig'd, seem'd ready to come into any Measures for the Publick Good; and others did not then appear to have form'd any Faction within, or without Doors; fo that the Publick Affairs might have gone on with Ease, had it not been for the Defection, which happen'd afterwards; and a Man, who pretended to be a Patriot, especially, if he had consider'd the Arguments in the Paper entrusted with him, wou'd never have scrupl'd to join with an Enemy, in carrying on the Service of his King and Country, rather than let the Common Cause suffer by any private Animofity.

That nothing cou'd have hinder'd him from Acting thus, and yet keeping his Potts, is very plain, from his being courted not to lay down; and he himself, as much as his Credit is concern'd in it, dares not mention the Motives which made him quit; which must be little

for his Reputation, if we judge of them by his Conduct fince that Time; and consequently, the Manuscript and the Pamphlet, let the Fault at first be where it will, are very consistent; since what is mention'd in them relates to different Facts, and different Times; and, therefore, nothing can be objected to that Pamphlet, if its Reasons are just, and the Facts true: And I suppose, it will be allow'd nothing yet has appear'd, which in the least diminishes the Force of either.

Not only the Title of the Manuscript, but ev'ry Page in it shews, with what an honest Design it was written; and that there appears thorow the whole, a steady Attachment, and more than common Zeal in the Writer of it for the Interest of his Country; and if the Person in whose Possession it is, thinks otherwise, he is at Liberty to print it, except those Mistakes relating to a Noble Person, which he himself drew me into.

In that Manuscript I was the longer in deferibing how the Tories acted in the late Reign, because what was said on that Head, was (for the most Part) taken from the Writings of Mr. W.--- himself, in Hopes that by re-considering them, he might be more steady to the true Interest of Great Britain, and guessing by my Knowledge of him, he would be always best pleas'd with what came from himself.

Amongst

Amongst other Inconveniences that wou'd attend those Divisions, if not compos'd, it was said,

The Tories strangely insult, and cry, that all the Measures concerted for bringing the Impeach'd Cr----ls to Justice, must fall to the Ground.

This, I thought, might have had its Effect on a Person, who had appear'd so zeasous in Promoting the Impeachments.

And after having giv'n an Account of the Principles of the Tories, it was faid,

Shou'd Men of these Principles, which Heav'n avert, get Power into their Hands; they,
no doubt, wou'd treat all, who go under the
Name of Whiggs, with more Cruelty than
ever yet was practis'd by the most barbarous Nations; Ail, therefore, who have any
Love for their GOD, their Religion, their
King, and Country, will do their utmost to
discourage all Attempts made by whomsoever, on what Pretence soever, in Favour of
Men of such detestable Principles, and look
on any Man as an Enemy to his Country,
who, out of a mad, and cursed Ambition,
is for creating Divisions among the Friends
to the Government.

Amongst other Things there mention'd, 'tis said,

· It's strangely unaccountable, that when the Rebels are overthrown, and the King's Enemies defeated, and there feems nothing more to do, than to make fuch Regulations, as were necessary for the Security of our future Peace, that any shou'd have so little Regard to the Safety of his Majesty, their Country, and Posterity, as to hazard all this by foolish Quarrels among themselves; but there can be little doubt, but that His Ma-' jesty's consummate Wisdom will easily discern whence all this had its Rife, and apply fuch proper Remedies, as will reach to the Root of the Distemper; and that the Parliament will not only go on to perfue all fuch Measures, as are necessary for the Publick Good; but make those repent it, if there are any fo hardy, who shall presume to endeavour to fow Seeds of Division among them. This is what justly may be expected from a Parliament, which has shewn to much Zeal for the Interest of their Country, and whose Weight and Authority, (it not being limited to three Years,) must be proportion'd to the Time of its Continuance.

I need not fay who they are, that fince the Writing that Paper, have been so hardy, as to make Divisions, as well within, as without Doors; and to soment them in a Family, upon whose Agreement, the Security of the Protestant Religion, the Sasety of these Nations, and the Liberties of Europe, do in a great Measure depend; and

and to unite with their Country's Enemies, in Opposing all Endeavours to render it happy.

If the Teries, as they pretended, conceiv'd fuch an Aversion against the King, for Employing those in the Administration they hated, I thought the mentioning that, wou'd be an invincible Argument to any one of them, against Deserting the Interest of a Prince, who had expos'd himself to the Hatred of so great a Party on their Account.

I concluded, that the best Way to hinder a Man from warping to the adverse Side, was to put him in Mind of what the Tories had done against him, as well as what he had done against them; and therefore, in the Character there giv'n of him, I set that in the best Light I cou'd, and commended him for the Part he acted in the late Reign against them.

I shall say no more on this Head, but in general observe, that a Man must have brought himself to a very unhappy Condition, if no honest Man can reslect on what he has formerly done, without conceiving an Horror for what he is now doing; and that a Panegyrick on his former Actions, is the greatest Satyr that can be on his present; according to Thucydides, He is doubly guilty, who is not good as he was, and is good as he was, and is good as he was not.

Postscript.

AD not Mr. W----- appear'd in Print, some wou'd have thought, he was able to say omething in his own Vindication; but now ney are convinc'd to the contrary, by his loose nd insignificant Answer; and they say, as it tust be presum'd, if there be a Lock with many Vards, and but one Key will open it, that ey was made for it; so if his Conduct (the perfection in the Defection, being onsider'd, and compar'd together,) can't be accounted for, but upon those Views and Motives ere suggested; that alone is a sufficient Proof ey are there fairly represented.

In his Answer he spends some Pages in giving travagant Commendations of himself, and Noble Lord, and of their * Reputation as puilt upon the Foundation of real, not imanary Services done to the whole Nation, to the Protestant Interest, to the King personally, and to all His Majesty's Royal Family and riends; exemplify'd by Services not easily to be equall'd, and which, perhaps, none could ave perform'd at that time but themselves; all this is in general, there's nothing in paralar, but what relates to one of them being ted an Enemy to his Country, and the other ng sent to the Tower.

 C_{2}

Men

Far be it from me to detract from the Merit of that Noble Lord, but cou'd we have thought it possible, that his Lordship was capable of ever joining his Consels with a Sett of Men, who had represented him to the Nation, as one who had made a most ignominious Treaty.

A Treaty, which they condemn'd as giving up ev'ry thing to the Durch, without regarding how it might have embroil'd us with the Emperor, or without stipulating the least Advantage upon a Peace to Great Britain, tho' the Burden of the War chiefly lay on her; or without sufficiently providing for the Security of our Trade in Flanders, and cv'n in those Towns taken by our Blood and Money; and that he had done this by himself, while the other Plenipot notwithstanding the Interest the Dutch h d in him, avoided Signing it.

Those, who inde'd impartially of Things, were under terrible Apprehensions, when they saw so great a Share of the Management of Publick Assairs fall into the Hands of a Man, who did not shew much Prudence in directing his own private Concerns, and wou'd be thought to merit highly of his Party, for being sent to the Torer for notorious Bribery and Corruption; (which seems to be not only an Approving 'em himself, but supposing they did so too;) nor was it material, whether the Money was for himself, or Creature; the Publick in either Case suffering alike:

Mr. W-----* quotes the Author of the Defection, for faying, 'Who is not furpriz'd to find these Men hazard all by their Unaccountable Divisions; and by joining with the Enemies of their Country, distress the King's 'Affairs, and prevent the doing those very 'Things, they themselves declar'd to be necessiary for the Publick Sasety"; from thence he argues, as if that Author had suppos'd, that all this happen'd only by L--d T-----d's, and Mr. W-----'s Withdrawing from the Publick Affairs; and that Others had not Abilities to supply their Places; however I wou'd not have him value himself on the Mischief he, and his Party, can do; since in many Circumstances (to make use of his own Motto) Much Malice mingl'd with but little Wit, may be able to endanger Things of the greatest Moment.

Tho' 'ris notorious, the Paper War was begun by the Deferters, and that the Two Conducts, &c. were the Libels that made the Attack, yet he heavily complains of their being infulted in Publick Libels; and thinks, those may serve for a sufficient Excuse for what they have done since the Desection. His Words are f. To tell us what Measures they take now, and what Instruments they may think sit to use since, is to enter upon a new Argument, in which, whoever dips must account also for the large they have received from a scandalous, cla-

[•] p 25. + p. 29, 30.

22

clamouring Sett of Men, as well in Pamphlets,

Libels, News-Papers and Conversation, as elsewhere; which may have oblig'd them to act in

their own Defence, and for the effectual Clearing up their own Reputation.

So that going over to that wretched Party, they themselves formerly spoke of with Abhorrence and Contempt, concerting Measures with, and affifting them, in Opposition to the Government, and the Personal Interest of the King their Master, is now, it seems, call'd Asting in their own Desence, and an essectual Clearing up their own Reputation; whereas immediately before, he fays, Their ' Reputation in their Native Country, is establish'd by a long Series of vigorous Conduct, and by a fleady, and conftant Application to the best, and most proper Methods of fuppressing all the open, and secret Enemies of the Constitution.

From a Writer, who feems to have no Regard to Truth, or Confiftency, Scurrility is the greatest Compliment; and he may call me foolish Creature as often as he pleases, as long as I am not a Creature of R----'s, which, at present, is, undoubtedly, one of the vilest Creatures in the Universe; and 'tis, certainly, an Honour to receive all the Marks of an impotent Rage from such a Writer, engag'd in fuch a Cause.

Since

[•] p. 29.

Since there is nothing in this Libel, but what is fully answer'd by the Defection surther consider'd, &c. I have nothing more to add, but that if the Writer of a Pamphlet, Entitul'd, A Short History of the Parliament; publish'd in 1713, and univerfally afcrib'd to Mr. W----, took the Liberty in speaking of the then Parliament, to fay, 'They, for the Characters of Loyal and Dutiful, have facrific'd their Country to the Fower of France; which can end in nothing, but bringing in the Pretender, Popery, and Sla-' very;" I can't fee how the Author of that Pamphlet can blame another, if he takes the fame Freedom with a private Man, when he thinks what he acts, (tho' it be not to obtain the Characters of Loyal and Dutiful,) tends to the same End: Or, in other Words, If his Conduct be fuch, as those, who govern'd that Parliament, wou'd have prescrib'd him, of whom that Writer gives this Character, 'That they feem to understand nothing but the Ma-' naging of Parties, and making the proper ' Use of the Weakness and Corruption of Manskind.

FINIS.











