

TO THE

MINISTERS AND ELDERS

Met at Edinburgh, April 26, 1710.

The Just COMPLAINT and Remonstrance  
Of the  
NATIONAL COVENANT of SCOTLAND,  
And the  
SOLEMN LEAGUE and COVENANT  
of the Three Kingdoms of  
SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, and IRELAND.

*Humbly Sheweth,*

**T**HAT whereas your Petitioners forlorne  
By Church and State, held in Contempt and Scorn  
By Persons of all Ranks and Qualities,  
Exposed to Affronts; Indignities,  
And all the Unjust Rage of Enemies  
Unto the Covenanted Reformation,  
Which once obtain'd within this Church and Nation:  
Cast off by all that's in Authority,  
And Violate by th' grossest Perfidy;  
Under the Ashes of Affronts do ly,  
Desert' by most unjust Apostacy;  
Deserve some other Treatment at the hands  
Of all, and each in these Reformed Lands;  
And specially; at yours, whose Place and Station,  
Whose Honour, Interest; and that high Relation,  
Wherein you stand unto the KING of Kings,  
Who in Sublime o're Earth's Clay-Monarchs reigns;  
Doth challenge your Observance of His Laws,  
With Life and Fortune to defend His Cause;  
His Honour and His Interest to advance,  
To propagate with Care and Vigilance,

His Kingdom, to oppose all Enemies,  
 Who would invade His Church's Liberties.  
 From You ( We say ) We justly might expect  
 Some simpler Demonstrations of Respect,  
 And Signs of Love, than yet You kythed have,  
 Who suffer Us to ly still in that Grave,  
 Which Tyrants, now convict of Perjury,  
 Did in the highest pitch of Cruelty,  
 Dig up; Our burned Ashes to enshrine ;  
 Thereby to satiate that Fury keen  
 Bred in their Breasts, by the Infernal Flames  
 Of Spight and Malice, 'gainst the very Names  
 Of Reformation, and a Covenant,  
 Or what e're else might interrupt the Rant  
 Of that Chimeric Sinfull Liberty,  
 Which now hath drown'd their Souls in Misery,  
 We might have thought, that through all this long Tract  
 Of Peace and Ease, you sometime would ransack  
 These deep Meanders and confused Cells,  
 These Labyrinths, which Truths pure light expels,  
 Or rather ne're admit's ; You know we mean,  
 These darksom Caves where we have bury'd been,  
 Of Tollerations and Indulgencies,  
 Granted by Christs declared Enemies ;  
 But oh, alace ! basely accepted by,  
 Some of yourselves to whom We now apply,  
 ( Perhaps in vain. ) We say, we might have thought,  
 That you at least our Reliques would have sought ;  
 We can assure you, 'tis no superstition  
 To seek 'em out with carefull Inquisition ;  
 Nay, on the contrare 'tis your bounden duty,  
 These Reliques to restore to th' ancient beauty,  
 Glory and Splendor wherewith once they shin'd,  
 While Christs true Citizens in one combin'd,  
 To propagate under their Captains Banner  
 His Truths and Cause in most couragious manner,  
 And with a just magnificence display,  
 Their Zeal, for that Intrinsic liberty,

And Pow'r wherewith the Church is vested by  
Her Husband CHRIST, without dependency  
On any State, or Worldly Monarchy.

We might have look'd, that when you did begin  
The Church's Breaches to repair again,  
We should have been employed to Cement  
That Fabrick, which Defections sore had rent;  
Instead of which 'twas basely plaist' red over,  
With fair pretexts, not to remove but cover  
All the Defection, Blood-shed, Perjury  
Enacted by Enormous Tyranny.

Yea such was your respect, rather disdain,  
To Us, who had the Nations Glory been;  
Least Your new Structure should participate  
Of any thing which might to Us relate,  
You chused rather to reject as Dust,  
And to consign to everlasting Rust,  
These worthy Acts, which did corroborate,  
And Us to Our just greatness elevate;  
Than to controll the Arrogating Pow'rs,  
Which o're Christ's Church seek to erect the Tow'rs  
Of an unlimited Supremacy  
Five, five of the Churches Liberty;  
And that You might their Humours gratifie,  
Thereby t' obtain Peace and Prosperitie,  
A temporary, Earthly, fading thing,  
Which seldom doth true satisfaction bring  
Unto the Soul as its Concomitant,  
Being that it is the Glory of a Saint  
To bear his Cross and imitate his Master,  
Who when on Earth was subject to Disaster,  
To sufferings great, and manifold Afflictions,  
And to the worst of sinners Contradictions:  
But You contrarie ways, to purchase ease,  
And Worldly wealth, or out of Cowardice,  
A Pusillanimous unmanly Passion  
Conversant more with Fear than solid Reason,  
Have contrare to the Duty which doth ly

Upon these Lands, by vertue of that tye  
 Which we contain; meanly receeded from  
 The Churches choifest Triumphs over *Rome*;  
 And practically granted them to be  
 What once they were declar'd by Tyranny  
*Acts of Rebellion 'gainst Authority.*  
 And ever since Your late Establishment,  
 You have declared that you are content  
 With any Model of Church Government,  
 Respondent to the Peoples Inclinations,  
 Within these three once Covenanted Nations;  
 Instead of that blest Uniformity  
 In Sound Religion, with the Purity  
 Of all its parts, intended and begun,  
 And sworn unto, tho' now alace o're-run  
 With Clouds of Error, Mists and Superstition,  
 Erastian Usurpation and Division.  
 It is no Paradox to see it so,  
 When there's a patent Door to every Foe;  
 Since We *Religions Bulwarks* are broke down,  
 And ne're repair'd, what wonder tho' the Crown  
 Fall from your heads? It can't be otherways,  
 Can you expect Heavens sweet comforting Rayes  
 Till you repent and do reform your ways?  
 O! do you think, th' Eternal hath forgot  
 The wrongs His Truth sustains? Observes He not  
 The Manners and Deportment of these Lands?  
 Who solemnly with elevated hands  
 Did vow Allegance and Fidelity,  
 Both for themselves and for posterity,  
 To Christ his Kingdom, Scepter, Government;  
 And amply testified their Souls Consent  
 By entring in a solemn COVENANT;  
 A COVENANT which was the blest effect  
 Of free and boundless Love, immense respect,  
 Which GOD vouchsaf'd upon these sinking Nations,  
 Whereby his People of all Ranks and Stations  
 Were animated, strengthened, and enlarged

From Yocks and Burdens which had overcharged  
Their Souls, their Conscience had much perturbed,  
And their due Christian Liberty had curbed.

A COVENANT which for its rise and spring,  
Manner and Ends, yea every other thing  
Relating to it, plainly doth discover,  
That GOD therein hath been the supream Mover  
His Kingdoms progress the supream Design ;  
The Manner what His perfect Laws define ;  
The Matter such as every gracious Soul,  
If well inform'd, must love, but can't control ;  
Binding to nothing but what formerly,  
And antecedent unto such a tye,  
Was lying as a duty on these Nations,  
Chiefly the Godly of all Ranks and Stations.

But lest you should Us tax of arrogance,  
While modestly We labour to advance  
That just Esteem, and Honour which is due  
To Us from all these Nations and from you  
In special, if you serve that Character  
Which Christ upon His Servants doth confer,  
Therefore We shall forbear Now to declare  
What our Enduements and Perfections are.  
Nor list We amply to enumerate  
What wrongs we bear, lest 't might exasperate  
mpatient humours, which can scarcely bear  
Our Names, much less Our just Complaints to hear ;  
And tho' We be contemned, flouted at,  
Delpis'd, derided and dilacerate ;  
Tho' such as seal'd Us with their precious Blood,  
Have been by You so far misunderstood,  
As to be tearm'd Blind-Zealots, Men intent,  
The Kingdom to disturb, the Church to rent ;  
Tho' in our room Oaths are impos'd and taken,  
Contrare to Us, and We our selves forsaken ;  
Yea, tho' We have sufficient Evidence  
Of disrespect to Our just Eminence,  
In every Event which doth now commence ;  
Yet here ( We say ) it is not Our Intentions



To draw these injuries in large Dimensions,  
 Nor to aggradge the hainous Circumstances,  
 Which them to such a pitch of guilt advances :  
 But You may Justly fear, some other Pencil  
 Will do't in lines of Blood, We mean the Benful  
 And storm of long-deserved Indignation,  
 Justly impendent on this sinfull Nation.

But what We here intend, is to remind  
 You of the Duty, unto which We bind,  
 These Kingdoms, namely that you should suppress,  
 Whatever is contrare to Godliness,  
 To sound Religion in its purity,  
 And pow'r, such as that cursed Hierarchy,  
 Satanical no doubt in its invention,  
 Th' infamous Means of Antichrists ascension,  
 Erect' by Law, confirmed by Decrees,  
 And Oaths impos'd on Men of all degrees.  
 As likewise every Het'rodox Opinion,  
 And Heresy, supporting the Domin.on  
 Of the Infernall King, now so much spreading ;  
 Mens wretched Souls to endless darknes leading ;  
 Tho' by the Influence and Kindly Rayes,  
 Which † *Moon and Stars* upon their roots displays,  
 These Errours quickly pullulate and spring,  
 And do their cursed fruits to ripeness bring.

**W** E know 'tis vain for Us to supplicate  
 You to revive Us, or redintegrate  
 That Reformation which We bind you to,  
 For that's beyond your Reach and Pow'r to do,  
 Till once you break the Bonds, throw of the yocks  
 Wreath'd on your Necks, remove the stumbling-blocks  
 Laid in the way of any Enterprife,  
 By which Christ's bury'd Int'rest may arise,  
 Mount up and Flowrish : yet, pray, do not think,  
 That Impotency under which you sink,  
 Can lessen or excuse your sinfull Courses,  
 Which do produce these Lets, and are the Sources,

From

From which do spring these grand impediments,  
 Which hinder Reformation, and foment  
 The Quite Reverse, even every curs'd Weed,  
 And Poison'd Root, which in these Lands do spread.  
 Only We crave, You'd seriously advert  
 Unto these Means which may just Wrath avert;  
 That you'd Repent, and would no more refuse  
 To turn to GOD, persist not to abuse  
 His long-protracted Love and Patience,  
 Which knows no Rival of its Eminence.  
 Yet when abus'd will sometime yield a place  
 To Justice 'gainst a stiff, Rebellious Race.  
 Consider that your trifling *Quiddities*,  
 Whereby you cover your Iniquities,  
 All these Distinctions whereby you'd evade  
 Just Challenges, and whereby you'd persuade  
 The simple to complaisance with your ways,  
 Can never hide them from OMNISCIENT Eyes.  
 And tho' by strength of rack'd Imaginations,  
 You may invent Distinctions and Evasions,  
 Shifts, and Pretexts your sins to palliate,  
 And your Declensions to extenuate,  
 Yet when the Righteous LORD shall rise to plead,  
 And 'gainst these Courses shall His Witness lead,  
 Perhaps you'll find, they'll prove but bruised Reeds,  
 Useless, yea, hurtfull in your greatest Needs.  
 O! how will you that weighty charge elude  
 Of Cov'nant-breaking; yea, the guilt of Blood,  
 Even Blood of Souls; who do not Faithfully,  
 As *Watchmen set on Lions Walls*, descry  
 The hainous sins and Heav'n-incensing Crimes,  
 Which are the Monstrous product of these times?  
 How can you say that you Repentance preach,  
 While you the Lands Defections do not reach?  
 While as you don't impartially declare  
 The sins of Great and Small, while you do spare  
 Sin in your selves or others, ne're expect  
 Such tender Indications of respect,

As Christ hath pleased sometimes to confer  
 Upon His Ministers, who did prefer  
 His Kingdoms success to their Worldly Grandeur  
 Who were content and willing to surrender  
 Their ALL to Christ, if so they might promote  
 His Churches Interest, and unite in Love  
 His Subjects in the way of Truth and Duty,  
 Which is the Quintessence of Zions beauty,  
 Which now she greatly wants, and can't regain,  
 While *Asher-like* you love still to remain  
 In these wide Breaches which her Foes have made,  
 Who did and do her Properties invade,

But to conclude, if you refuse to hear  
 These words of soberness, and stoppe your ear  
 Against the Truth, We'll reinforce our Charge,  
 We'll change our Arguments and them enlarge,  
 And will oblide our briskest foes to yield,  
 Yea, with disgrace at length to quite the field;  
 Because HE'S Mighty who has promised  
 Our Quarrel to a venge, our Cause to plead.  
 HIS faithfulness and HIS veracity  
 Will not allow, HE should indemnify  
 These Obstinate and unrepenting Lands,  
 Who do despise HIS Oath, and break HIS bands.  
 Who dream of ease, peace and prosperity,  
 While yet involv'd in profound perjury.  
 This is the Summe of what was Our intent  
 In this *Assembly* to have represent;  
 But doubting of a kind and friendly hearing,  
 Our usuall intertainment justly fearing,  
 We here await what honour your Discretion  
 Will put upon two Patriots of your Nation.

*In prolem dilata ruunt perjuria patris  
 Et penam merito filius ore legit  
 Et quas fallacis collegit lingua parentis  
 Has eadem nati lingua refundit opes.*

Claudianus ex Hesiodo.