

TO THE HONOURABLE THE KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND BURGESSES, IN THE COMMONS HOVSE OF PARLIAMENT NOW ASSEMBLED.

The humble Petition of 15000. poore labouring men, known by the name of Porters, and the lowest Members of the Citie of LONDON.

Humbleth sheweth,



That your poor Petitioners, though they be the lowest and meanest Members of this City, yet they do with all humble and hearty acknowledgment confesse, that the uncessant and unexpressable care and paines you have taken for the good of both Church and State, in the midst of so many Plots, Conspiracies and perills, deserveth to be recorded to your eternall Fame, and of your poore Petitioners most humbly and gratefully accepted of; although those happy effects, you have by your unwearied endeavours laboured for, and your Petitioners long expected, be not yet produced; the cause of which is, that adverse malignant-blood sucking-rebellious Popish party in the generall: For particular parties, many of them hath been often mentioned in this Honourable House heretofore: therefore we will omit to make any further mention of them; only your Petitioners doth humbly crave leave to name some of those many particular evils, which we have too much cause to feare, and are in a great measure sensible of: as First, that great height of power the Adverse party is grown unto, in that they are so impudent and Insolent, as to counsell to, and devise a way to accuse the Innocent; and when that would not hit, then they counselled that power Prerogative should trample upon all the Priviledges of Parliament, and the Liberty of the Subject, which if Gods providence and your prudence had not timely prevented this designe, the whole Kingdome ere this time, had been involved in blood. Secondly, the dayly growth of the Forces, Insolencies and outrages of those salvage, and more then barbarous Rebels in *Ireland*, exercised upon our poore Brethren by Nation and Religion, whose miserable and distressed estate we truly sympathize, and doe much condole; and if the good hand of the Almighty, by your prudence and puissance, doe not speedily bridle the adversarie, they will totally extirpate and extinguish the name of the English, with the Protestant Religion in that Nation. And your Petitioners doe humbly conceive, that the hand of the adverse party is too much seen amongst us here, by contriving and procuring obstruſions and delayes in their reliefe and supplies. Thirdly, the universall deadnes of Trading, it hath been a languishing long, and strooke in divers branches of it, but now the very body of it is strooke livelesse and dead: and the reasons hereof (as your Petitioners doth humbly conceive) are divers, not only the things before named, but the many feares, jeal'ousies and distractions we lye under: for being the adverse party seeth that their secret plots, Conspiracies, and hellish devices, hath hitherto become abortive, it is to be feared they will break out into open Hostilitie, as they have done in *Ireland*; and moreover, laying of our selves open to forreigne Invasion, by delaying of the fortification of the Cinque Ports, which is (as your Petitioners doe humbly conceive) too great an advantage and encouragement to the Papiſts amongst us to make Insurrection, and doth too much animate a forreigne pewel to Invade us. These, and many more, which is above and beyond our line and spheare of conceiving, are the causes of this universall deadnesse of Trading: now this deadnesse of Trade is the sole cause your poore Petitioners doth want employment in such a measure, that their lives are made very uncomfortable: for besides the single number mentioned before, which is the least that doe live in that way; there is a treble number which hath their subsistence of the labour of your poore Petitioners, that is, their Wives and Children: and being your Petitioners can have no better employment, they are exposed to many hardships for that little, your Petitioners was possessed of before these times, since these times of Trading grew so dead, they have been constrained to sell part, and paund other part, for to buy food for their Families, and now they have scarce so much left: as will satisfie their Landlords for Rent, and so your Petitioners are very nigh turning into the Streets.

Therefore, the most humble request of your poore Petitioners is, that this extreame necessity of theirs may be taken into serious consideration, and that this Honourable House would fall upon the speediest course that your wisdomes seeth best, for abateing and quelling of the pride, outrage, and insolencie of the adverse party hereat home; and that reliefe and supply may be sent to our Brethren in *Ireland*, if it may be before it be too late. And your Petitioners doe further humbly pray, that this Land may be secured, by fortifying the Cinque Ports, and putting the people into a posture of Defence, that all, or as many of our feares as can, may be removed; that the way and life of Trading may againe be set up and opened; that so your Petitioners wants may in some measure be supplied. They further humbly pray that Justice may be done upon Offenders, according as the atrocitie of their crimes have deserved: for if these things be any longer suspeded, they will force your Petitioners to extremities, not fit to be named, and to make good that saying, *That necessity hath no Law*: It is true, that we have nothing to lose but our lives, and those we will willingly expose to the utmost perill, in the defence of the Kings Majesties Royall person, Crown and Dignities, and this Honourable House of Parliament, with the Priviledges thereof, with all the rest, contained in our Protestation, to which your Petitioners will adhere to the losse of their lives: And they doe most humbly desire a favourable construction and acceptance of these few immature and undigested expressions, and so much as is unfavourie in them to impute it to a defect in their understanding, and not to any perniciousnesse in the will. And your Petitioners doe with all humblenesse and submission desire a speedy Answer:

And they will never cease to pray, &c.

A true relation of the manner how it was delivered.

The Petitioners coming to the House, were called, and six of them having access, one of them was to speake, and that was the man that delivered the Petition; and thus he delivered himselfe: May we humbly crave leave of this Honourable House to deliver a Petition; the Answer was, to bring it in, and then the Petitioners were ordered to withdraw: and after some time spent, the Petitioners were called in againe, and Mr. Speaker was desired in the name of the House to give the Petitioners many thanks for the love, care, and obedience they manifested: and their expressions were kindly accepted of: and the Petitioners were wished to continue in their obedience, and for their request, part of it was provided for, and the other part the House did take special care of, and we should have full satisfaction. To which the Speaker for the Petitioners replied, that they gave the Honourable House many humble and great thanks for their graeious acceptance, and withall did humbly desire the Honourable House would take notice, that the pressing necessities are such we lye under, as cannot admit of delayes.

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