

His Maiesties Speech at Leicester,

to the Gentlemen, Free-holders, and Inhabitants of that County. July 20.

GENTLEMEN,

Since I have found my presence so very acceptable amongst my good Subjects in these Northern parts, and that the Errors and Mistakes amongst them, have wholly proceeded from mis-information, and are removed with more satisfaction, and ease to them then they were received; I hold it a piece of my duty, to take the utmost pains I can, fully to inform and undeceive my People; and rather to prevent Crimes, then to punish them: In this Errand I am come to you, amongst whom there hath not beene the least misunderstanding, to shew you, That I doe not suspect any malice in the Place, or in the People, though persons of as ill dispositions have been busie in it, and amongst you, as in any County in England, & such who have taken as great pains to do mischief, and to bring Confusion as good men should for peace & happines: Though tis as true, that very many worthier persons amongst you have appeared of contrary affections, which I shal always acknowledge: I am come to you in a time too, when nothing could invite me to such a lourney, but my Affection to, and good esteeme of you; having sent such Propositions for Peace and Accommodation to my two Houses of Parliament, that I hope to have no other use of your affections, but in your Prayers; being sure they will submit to them with allacrity, if the unexcusable Enemies to the Peace of the Kingdome be not strong enough to prevaile: And then you will finde your selves so much concerned (for I have required nothing that with more iustice can be denied me (if it be duly weighed) then my Crowne, or my Life may be taken from me) that I shall not need to aske your assistance: I know you will bring Horse, Men, Money, and Hearts worthy such a Cause. Your Religion, your Liberties, your Lawes (which I will defend with my life, I meane the good knowne Lawes of the Land, not Ordinances without my consent, which till within these twelve Moneths was never heard of from the Foundation of this Kingdom) will be the Quarrell: And in such a Cause the taking away my Townes, Ships, Armes, and Money from me, shall not dishearten me: The Concurrence and Affection of my People with Gods blessing will supply and recover all.