

ARTICLES OF HIGH MISDEMEANOUR

Humbly Offer'd and Presented to the Consideration of
His Sacred MAJESTY, and the Right Honourable the
LORDS, and others of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council,

AGAINST

Sir WILLIAM SCROGGS, Knight,
Lord Chief Justice of the King's-Bench,

By Dr. Titus Oates, and Mr. William Bedlow.

I. That the said Lord Chief Justice, contrary to his Oath, the Duty of his place, and in contempt of the King, his Crown and Dignity, did set at liberty several persons accused upon Oath before him of High Treason, without their being Tryed, or otherwise Legally acquitted, as namely, the Lord Brudenel, &c.

II. That at the Tryal of Sir George Wakeman and others, in the Sessions House in the Old Bailey, for High Treason, the said Lord Chief Justice (according to the Dignity of his place) managing the said Tryal, did Brow-beat and curb Dr. Titus Oates and Mr. William Bedlow, two of the principal Witnesses for the King in that Case, and did encourage the Jury Impannelled and Sworn to try the said Malefactors, against the said Witnesses, by his publick speaking slightly and abusively of them and their Evidence, and in the misrepeating and omitting most material parts of their Evidence; whereby the said parties indicted, were by the said Jury acquitted of the Fact charged then against them, and fully proved by the said Witnesses.

III. That the said Lord Chief Justice, after the said Tryal of the said Sir George Wakeman and others, for High Treason as aforesaid, in the further abuse of the said Dr. Titus Oates and Mr. William Bedlow, and in their great disparagement, speaking of them, (said) That before the Tryal of Sir George Wakeman (meaning the aforesaid Tryal) the Witnesses, (meaning the said Doctor Titus Oates and Mr. William Bedlow) were to be believed; But that at and after the said Tryal, they were not to be believed by him, nor should not be believed by him; or to that very Effect.

IV. That the said Lord Chief Justice, by colour of his Office hath taken upon him the power to Oppress, by Imprisoning his Majesties Loyal Subjects namely, Henry Care, for the writing and causing to be printed divers Single-sheet Books in English, called *The Pacquet of Advice from Rome*, for the information and discovering of the Idolatries, Errours and Impieties of the Romish Church, to his Majesties Loyal and Obedient Protestant Subjects, (in this Juncture of Affairs very useful) although the said Lord Chief Justice neither did nor could alledge or charge the said Care with any thing contained in the laid Book, that was any way Criminal, or derogatory to his Majesty, his Laws, Crown and Dignity, and refused to take very good Bail for him, though offered, and afterwards less Bail taken for him upon his *Habeas Corpus* in Court, but by the said Lord Chief Justice his means he was continued bound all the Term, and to his Good Behaviour, and at the end thereof, untill the next Term, although no particular Crime was or could be proved against him, or laid to his charge.

V. That to the great Oppression of His Majesties Loyal Subjects, he the said Lord Chief Justice, contrary to Law, and manifest breach of his Oath, hath without any reasonable cause Imprisoned a Feme Covert, and also divers other His Majesties said Subjects, and refused to take Bail though tendered, and the matter Bailable, as in the Case of Mrs. Jane Curtis, and Mr. Francis Smith, &c.



VI. That the said Lord Chief Justice is very much addicted to Swearing and Cursing in his common Discourse, and to Drink to Excess, to the great disparagement of the Dignity and Gravity of his said place: He did in his common discourse at Dinner, at a Gentleman's house of Quality, publickly and openly use and utter many Oaths and Curses, and there drank to Excess.

VII. That *Charles Price* being accused upon Oath before him the said Lord Chief Justice, to be a *Popish Priest* and *Jesuite*, and imprisoned for the same, and also divers other persons accused upon Oath for High Treason, he the said Lord Chief Justice upon Bail delivered, without consulting His Majesties Council or his Witnesses, and against their consents, divers of which said persons have not since appeared, but have forfeited their Recognizances, and the persons not to be found.

VIII. That the said Lord Chief Justice, to the great discouragement of His Majesties Royal Protestant Subjects, and to the manifest encouragement of the *Roman Catholick Subjects*, when Informations have been duly and legally given to him, of the Abode or Person of any *Popish Priest* or *Jesuite*, he hath in a flitting and scornful manner refused the same, and bid the Informer go to Sir *William Waller* who busied himself in such matters mainly.

IX. That at the Tryal of *Knox* and *Lane* at the Bar of the King's-Bench Court, for their Misdemeanour, in endeavouring to take away the Credit of Dr. *Titus Oates*, and Mr. *William Bedlow*, two of the principal Witnesses for His Majesty, in the proving of the Conspiracy and Conspirators against His Majesty's Life, the Government of the Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, the Destruction of the Protestants and Protestant Religion, and introducing and settling of Popery there; although the Evidence was so full and clear against them, that the Jury found them Guilty without going from the Bar; yet the said Lord Chief Justice in further disparagement and disparaging of the Evidence of the said Dr. *Titus Oates*, and Mr. *William Bedlow*, would not, nor did not give any Charge to the said Jury therein, but rose up suddenly after the Evidence closed by the Council, and left the said Court abruptly, before the said Jury had given in the same.

X. That the said Lord Chief Justice knowing that one *William Osborn* was in the Conspiracy and contrivance with the said *Knox* and *Lane* (in the last Article mentioned) to take away the Credit of the said Dr. *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow*; And knowing the said Dr. *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow* to be material Witnesses for His Majesty in proving of the Conspiracy and Conspirators in the said last Article mentioned; And had been so against several of the said Conspirators that had been tryed, and were to be so, against several others of the said Conspirators that were impeached or accused for the said High Treason; and were to be tryed for the same; and knowing the said *William Osborn* had been detected before the Lords in Parliament assembled, for his said Conspiracy and contrivance with the said *Knox* and *Lane*, and that by his own Oath thereupon denying the Fact in their said Conspiracy and Contrivance to be true; Yet out of his Malice to the said Dr. *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow*, and in as much as in him lay, to endeavour the disparagement if not the suppressing of the further discovery of that hellish and damnable Plot; he the said Lord Chief Justice without the knowledge, consent or approbation of His Majesty or any of his Learned Council in the Law; or the said Dr. *Titus Oates* or Mr. *William Bedlow*, did voluntarily give the said *William Osborn* liberty to make an *Affidavit* before him upon Oath of the truth of the said Fact he had before as aforesaid denied upon his Oath, with intent that the same might be made use of against the said Dr. *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow*, to their disparagement, and the apparent prejudice of His Majesty against the said Conspirators in the said High Treason.

XI. That the said Lord Chief Justice to manifest his flitting Opinion of the Evidence of the said Dr. *Titus Oates* and Mr. *William Bedlow*, in the presence of his Sacred Majesty, and the Right Honourable the Lords, and others of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, did dare to say, That he had thought Dr. *Titus Oates*, and Mr. *William Bedlow*, always had an Accusation ready against any Body.

XII. That at the last Assize holden at *Monmouth*, the said Lord Chief Justice in the presence of several Justices of the Peace for the said County, did say to Mr. *William Bedlow*, that he did believe in his Conscience that *Richard Langhorne* whom he condemned, died wrongfully, to the great disparagement of His Majesties Crown and Dignity, the Justice of the Court, the Jury and Evidence.

XIII. That the said Lord Chief Justice, contrary to the Dignity of his Place, did make Merchandise of the Tryals of certain Priests to be tryed in *Staffordshire*, and took Twenty Guinnes i.n Earnest, and then sold the said Tryals to other Persons, refusing to return the said Twenty Guinnes to those from whom he received them: And furthermore, before the Tryal of Sir *George Wakeman*, he the said Lord Chief Justice did bargain with two Booksellers for one hundred and fifty Guinnes for them to print the Tryals, and in case they would not lay down the Money before he went into the Court, he would not go into the Court, but would go into the Country: And if the said Tryal, by reason of its length, could not be finished in one day, he would ha ve one hundred Guinnes more; or words to that very effect.