

ARTICLES

OF

IMPEACHMENT

AGAINST

Edward Seymour Esq;

With the VOTE of the
COMMONS in PARLIAMENT
Upon the said ARTICLES.

Articles of Impeachment of High Crimes, Misdemeanours and Offences, against Edward Seymour Esq; one of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy, and one of the Members of the House of Commons now in Parliament Assembled.

Imprimis,

THat, Whereas the Sum of Five hundred eighty four thousand nine hundred seventy Eight Pounds, Two shillings, Two pence, was raised by an Act of Parliament for the speedy building of thirty Ships of War, and thereby appropriated to the said Use; By which Act it was particularly directed, That the Treasurer of the Navy should keep all Moneys paid to him, by vertue of the said Act, distinct and a part from all other Moneys; and should Issue and pay the same by Warrant of the Principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy or any three or more of them; and mentioning and expressing that it is for the building, for the Guns, Rigging and other Furnishing of the said Thirty Ships of War, and to no other Use, Intent, or Purpose whatsoever; He the said *Edward Seymour* on or about the Year One thousand six hundred seventy seven, being then Treasurer of the Navy, did, contrary to the said Act, and contrary to the Duty of the said Office, lend the Sum of Ninety thousand Pound (at Eight Pound *per Cent.*) parcel of the said Sum raised by the said Act (being then in his hands) for and towards the support and continuance of the Army then Raised; after such time as by an Act of Parliament the same Army ought to have been Disbanded, whereby the said two several Acts were Eluded, and the said Army was continued and kept on Foot to the great Disturbance, Hazard and Danger of the Peace and safety of the Kingdom; And the Nation was afterwards put to a new Charge of Raising and paying the Sum of Two hundred thousand Pound for the Disbanding of the said Army.

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Secondly,



Secondly, That whereas an Act of Parliament had passed for Raising of Money by a Poll, for Enabling His Majesty to enter into an Actual War against the *French King*, and the Mony raised by Vertue of the said Act, was thereby appropriated to the said Use, and to the Re-payment of such Persons as should furnish His Majesty with any Sums of Mony, or any Stores necessary for the said Service.

And whereas certain East-land Merchants were desired by His Majesty's Officers to furnish and supply great quantity of Stores for the Navy, and as an Incouragment thereunto, were assured, that the Sum of Fourty thousand Pound, parcel of the Monys raised by the said Act, was at that time actually in the Hands of the said *Edward Seymour* (which he did acknowledg so to be) and did promise the said Sum should be paid to the said Merchants in part of Satisfaction for the said Stores, which they did furnish upon the Credit of the said Affirmation and Undertaking. He the said *Edward Seymour* did on or about the Year One thousand six hundred seventy eight; issue out and pay the said Sum to the Victuallers of the Navy by way of Advance, and for Provisions not then brought in, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the said act, Whereas, the same by the Provision of the said Act, ought to have been payed to the East-land Merchants, who had furnished His Majesty with Flax, Hemp, and other Necessaries for the said Service; Of which said Deceit, and Injustice the said Merchants did complein in the last Payment.

Thirdly, That the said *Edward Seymour* being Treasurer of the Navy, and then and still having a Salary of 3000 *l. per Annum* clear for the same, did, during the time that he was Speaker of the late long Parliament, receive out of the Monys Appointed for secret Service, the Yearly sum of 3000 *l.* over and above his said Salary, which was constantly pay'd to him, as well during the Intervals as the Sessions of Parliament; and particularly, during the Prorogation of Fifteen Months.

Fourthly, That on or about the Eighteen Year of His Majesty's Reign and during a War with the States General of the *United Netherlands*; He the said *Edward Seymour*, being then one of the Commissioners for Prize Goods, did, Fraudulently, Unlawfully, and in Deceit of His Majesty, Unlade a certain Prize Ship, taken from the Subjects of the said States, without any Order or Authority for the same, and did House the Lading and Goods of the said Ship, and Lock up the same without the presence of any Store-keeper, and did afterwards Sell the same, pretending the same to be only *Muscarado* Sugars, and did Account with His Majesty for the same as such; Whereas in Truth, the said Ship was laden with *Cochineal* and *Indico*, rich Merchandises of a very great Value.

Veneris 26^o Nov. 1680.

Resolved,

THAT there is sufficient Matter in these Articles for the Impeachment of *Edward Seymour* Esq; a Member of this House; And that he be Impeached upon these Articles.

I Appoint *John Wright* and *Richard Chiswell* to Print these Articles and Vote, Perused by me according to the Order of the House of Commons; And that no other Person presume to Print them, 26 Nov. 1680.

Wi. Williams, Speaker.

London, Printed for *John Wright*, at the Crown on *Ludgate-bill*, and *Richard Chiswell*, at the Rose and Crown in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*. 1680.