

The Southwark Address

Presented by several Inhabitants of Note,

In the Name of themselves and their Loyal Fellow-Burghers

TO THEIR

BURGESSES,

On Friday March 18. 1680.

At their setting forth towards OXFORD.

*To the Right Worshipful Sir RICHARD HOW, Kt. and
PETER RICH, Esq; Burgesses Elected to serve for the
Borough of Southwark in the Parliament to be holden at
Oxford, March 21. 1680.*

GENTLEMEN,

OUR two former Elections of you to be our Representatives in Parliament resulted from the large Experience we had before of your Loyalty, Prudence, Fidelity and Fitness in every respect for so great a Trust, which we acknowledg you have hitherto managed so well, that doubtless you had been as unanimously as you have been fairly Chosen again, if some Strangers had not practised upon the credulity of some of our Neighbours.

This Address therefore is not occasioned by the least Apprehension we have of any Necessity of our giving you Directions for the discharge of the Trust which we and the Constitution of the Government have reposed in you. But some few bold men having obtruded upon the World ill things as the unanimous Dictates of whole Counties, Cities and Boroughs, have forced us upon this way of Declaring our minds, lest they should take occasion from our silence to put us in also as Approvers of such things.

I. We being fully convinced of a Damnable Hellish Conspiracy against the Kings Life, the established Religion and Government, think it absolutely necessary, that the compleat Discovery of it be impartially endeavoured; that so the Offenders, whether Papists or other Enemies to our Religion and Government, may be brought to condign Punishment.

II. We



II. We being fully satisfied that the Government of this Kingdom, as it stands Established by Law, both in Church and State, is the most excellent and happy that any People in the World do at this day live under; we consequently think our selves bound in Conscience to use all lawful means for its Support.

III. The Persons and Reputations of Kings having by all Laws both Divine and Human ever been accounted sacred, we conceive that the traducing his Majesty, and endeavouring to lessen him in the hearts of his people, is not only unbecoming the Reformed but all Religion, and therefore ought to be discountenanced by severe Penalties upon Offenders in that kind.

IV. Our Lives, Liberties and Estates having ever since his Majesties happy Restauration been by him, under God, inviolably preserv'd to us, and that always (but of late more especially) at his Majesties vast charge and expence both at home and abroad, we think it highly reasonable, that, as we have formerly done, so we should still (in a Parliamentary way) help to defray the Charge, as well as enjoy the Benefit of His Majesties gracious Government and Protection.

Gentlemen,

IT is not for want of any Respect to your Persons or Character, that we decline attending you in as great Numbers as any *Life-and-fortune-men* of 'um all, but meerly because as Loyal Subjects we are careful to avoid any thing that has the least appearance of Tumult; so that we have nothing further to add, but to wish you a good Journey, and pray God to prosper you in all your Debates and Consultations tending to the Kings Honour and Safety, the preservation of the Protestant Religion, and the welfare of the Kingdom.

Which being Received and Read by the Burgeses, they replied to this effect.

Gentlemen,

YOU have spoken our sense in every particular, and we hope we shall so demean our selves as to satisfy all unbia's'd men, that our Principles are truly Loyal, that we are sincere Protestants, and hearty Lovers of our Country.