

Some Account of the

PROCEEDINGS

A T

GUILD-HALL LONDON,

On Saturday the 24th. of *June* being *Midsummer-day*, 1682.



HEREAS the Right Honorable the Lord-Mayor, did issue out his Precepts, that the Livery-men of this City might appear at the *Guild-Hall* on *Midsummer day*, to confirm the Sheriff that his Lordship hath chosen, and to choose another Sheriff, and other Officers: They did accordingly on the same day make an extraordinary Appearance; where the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, Recorder, Common-Serjeant, and others concerned being come, upon the Hustings, and Silence commanded, the Cryer forthwith proclaimed to this Effect following; *You Good men of the Livery of the City of London, summoned here this day for the Confirmation of Dudley North Esq; Mercer, &c.* At the end of which, and before he could pronounce other words, a great Shout was in the Hall, and voluntary holding up of hands for *Dudley North Esq;* and that noise several times repeated, with the Addition of these words, a *North, a North, a North, &c.* when silence could be again procured, Mr. Recorder, after the usual Ceremony, began a very eloquent Speech, setting forth the Nature and Dignity of that Assembly, (and that it might in some Sence be called the greatest of all lawful Assemblies in the Kingdom,) the great Consequence which depended upon their well-doing the work of that day, and the happiness the City had many hundred years possess'd by those Priviledges.

Another Shout then was given (which seemed unseasonable) and after it Mr. Recorder proceeded to speak, using a Parable of an excellent River, which if kept within its bounds, was pleasant and useful, but when, by the rage or swelling of the Waters, it overflowed the Banks, it then become a Trouble to the Land. And so men, if they used their Priviledges in due Season, or as they ought to do, then and then only were they useful to the Body Politick, (or some words of like Import.) He said something concerning the largeness of the Thème he had to speak to; but coming to Particulars, how the natural Person governed himself, and in what manner a Body Politick was likewise governed. From thence to explain the Laws and Methods of this very Body Politick; and to speak of the Choice of some of their Officers, particularly of Aleconners, Bridge-masters, Auditors of the Chamber of Bridge-house, and their Chamberlain, (particularizing the great Trust reposed in him.) And lastly, of the Choice of their Sheriffs, how that Priviledge had been anciently granted to the City, and how it hath been continued to them. That the Duty of this Officer, was to receive and execute the King's Writs, and make return thereof to the King; that the due executing of these Writs, and Commands of the King, were of very great Moment. He mentioned how they ought to be qualified as to their Loyalty and Ability; that their very Charter sayes, they must be such men as they themselves will be content to answer for. He went on to acquaint them with something from the Lord-Mayor.

But



But several unseasonable Shoutings and Hallowings being used during his Speech, it could neither be truly taken, or well understood, and Mr. Recorder (as some believe) concluded sooner than he might have done, if a respective attention had been given to so good Council as he delivered. He only added therefore, that he was sorry to see so well a governed City guilty of such Disorder, (or such like words.) Exciting them to Calmness, Peace, and a good Temper; as being the most desirable thing in the World, that they would avoid Heats or Animosities, and endeavor the Peace of the City, for that as they were but one Body, their Interest was single, and good or ill, happened to them in Common. That good men are the better for Conjunction, Flowers joyned together, increased their Sweetness, but Bryars and Thorns put together, tear and rend each other. He bewailed their Divisions, as being Subjects to the same God, the same King, of the same Corporation, and all Members of a City, deservedly accounted the Chamber of the Kingdom. That they were rational men, and would they Act as such, the King might repose himself in them, and they might enjoy all the good that could befall a People, concluding with his hearty wishes for the same.

The Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and Recorder then withdrawing, Mr. Sheriff *Tilkington*, Mr. Sheriff *Shute*, and Mr. Common Serjeant, went on in the usual Method of electing the Officers before-mentioned, putting in Nomination for Sheriffs, *Dudley North Esq;* Mercer, *Thomas Papilion Esq;* Mercer, *John Dubois Citizen and Weaver*, and *Ralph Box Citizen and Grocer*. It being demanded of the Common Hall, whether they desired any more should be put up, it was answered, they would have no more. They were put up in the Customary Method and Words, (*viz.*) so many of you that will have *D. N. Esq;* &c. to be one of the Sheriffs of the City of *London* and County of *Middlesex* for the year ensuing, hold up your hands; and so also of all the rest in the order as they are herein named, which being done, Mr. Common Serjeant declared, that it was the Opinion of the Sheriffs, that the Choice fell upon *Thomas Papilion Esq;* Mercer, and *John Dubois Citizen and Weaver*. But a Pole was thereupon earnestly demanded by one part of the Livery-men; the Sheriffs answering, that after they had made report to the Lord-Mayor, &c. it should be granted them; first desiring their Patience to elect the other Officers.

And proceeding to such Choice, Sir *Thomas Player* Knight, was elected for Chamberlain of the City of *London* for the year ensuing. *Richard Haukins*, and *William Ashurst* for Auditors of the Chamber of Bridge-house Accounts. *John Sexton* and *Richard Brackly* for Bridge-masters. *John Somerfeild*, *John Broume*, *Bartholomew Alder*, and *John Farthing* for Aleconners.

The Sheriffs then going off the *Hustings*, to acquaint the Lord-Mayor with what had been done, returned in a short time, and declared the Allowance of a Pole. That it should begin within an hour, and that they designed to conclude that night. About two a Clock in the Afternoon, it was accordingly begun, and taken in many Books (for Expedition.) In the Prosecution of which Pole, some Persons happening to be dissatisfied, made complaint thereof to the Lord-Mayor; and it is said, his Lordship thereupon, came and declared his pleasure concerning it.

Between the hours of six and seven in the Evening, the Lord-Mayor, and several of the Aldermen, came upon the *Hustings*, and it was by the Crier proclaimed, that all manner of Persons who had any more to do in that place, might depart for that time, and give their attendance again on Tuesday next by nine in the Forenoon.

Notwithstanding which Adjournment, great part of the People remained, many of them calling out a Hall, a Hall, a Pole, a Pole, (and the like) the Sheriffs also remaining to manage the Pole; have the Books cast up; or to debate something in Relation thereto; and by an Expectation that the Pole would be declared, the Hall was thronged with People, until between nine and ten in the night, that the Sheriffs likewise came upon the *Hustings*, and one of them making a short Speech, did also adjourn the Pole until nine a Clock on Tuesday next.