

# VERBUM SAPIENTI,

Or, One word for the Charter, Reputation, and Honour of the City of LONDON; In an Address to the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen and Commonalty thereof.

My Lord and Fellow Citizens,

**T**HE great noise and bustle which the *Quo Warranto* against our Charter has made, both in City and Country, is of no small trouble and anxiety to all serious and true hearted Citizens.

And since it has pleased his Sacred Majesty, (as a scourge for our miscarriages and insolences against his Government,) to call in question our Charter, to search into our Priviledges and Immunities granted by him and his Royal Predecessors; and that since his Majesty seems resolved to prosecute the matter at Law in order to shake the very foundation of all our ancient liberties and priviledges; I humbly conceive it necessary at this time of our Electing Sheriffs, to offer something by way of Expedient, wherein the Honour and Reputation of our City may yet be preserved, and we stand firm in his Majesties good opinion and favour, Maugre all combinations to the Contrary.

And in order to which I do heartily and humbly offer some considerations to all the truly honest and Loyal Citizens, in the first place; And secondly, some sober Counsels to all the Male-contents among us how to behave themselves in this day of trouble and disappointment to their late designs and practices.

My Lord and Brethren, is it a small thing, think you, that his Majesty should now call us to an account (after twenty years peace and tranquillity under his happy Government,) for matters which Subjects ought not in reason and gratitude, (besides the great obligation we are under as to publick Oaths and Engagements) to act in the face of the Sun, (as some among us have lately done) I am very unwilling to lay before you our past actions, and yet it will be necessary in some respects, since the very remembrance of our late *Egyptian* bondage may possibly deter us from herding with the old Republican Monsters again.

And first let us consider what the pretences were of restless and unquiet men, in the late Civil broils in this our native Country: Had we not then our *Prins* and *Bastwicks*, our *Burtens*, and *Marshals*, our *Boroughs*, and *Loves*, &c. and have we not now our Men of *Shaftsbury*, our *Jenkins's*, our *Owens*, &c. and abundance of other Trumpeters of sedition and rebellion, which of old they very silyly carried on under the notion of advancing the power of Godliness, and a thorow reformation; in order to which ends what Solemn Covenants, Engagements and Abjurations, did these Masters of the Cause impose on us; or if any durst be honest, and refuse them, what Tyranny and Arbitrary power was there exercised on the good men, even to the utter ruine and desolation of their Families? as thousands of Instances may easily be produced. 'Twas then our Properties and Liberties were truly invaded, our Religious and decent Worshipping of God, destroyed as Anti-Christian. 'Twas then our King (to the Eternal reproach of our Nation) was barbarously Murdered, his friends ravisht from him; and his Royal Children banisht into Forrain parts to seek protection from those Princes that hated their Religion; Oh infamous and abominable wickedness! One would think that none, but the old Sons of Rebellion, should ever entertain a good thought for the principles and actions of those times; and yet do we not see that out of these Phoenix's ashes, there are sprung up a sort of men, full as turbulent to all our constitutions of Government both Sacred and Civil? what means else all the seditious Speeches in publick Coffee-houses, what means all the Treasonable and Seditious Pamphlets and Preachments, not to mention the Votes of Parliament to punish their fellow Subjects, as abhorers? do they not plainly demonstrate that the same principles remain in the minds of these men at this day, as of old; and does it not preface only a want of opportunity for action? Oh Ingratitude!

Secondly, And then again; do but consider how we have behaved our selves toward his Majesty and his Government since the discovery of the late Plot, (omitting the Achtophelling Counsels of breaking the Triple league, shutting up the Exchequer? and such like;) how have we run out against Popery and Arbitrary power with all the zealous endeavours imaginable, when we knew not where to find it? how have our Evidence-people sworn backward and forward, even as interest and discovery came in? and how have we

hug'd and embraced them in our bosomes too; whilst they took off the lives of Jesuitical Traytors; but when they are made use of against another sort, what outrages and clamours were there amongst us? oh! such Villains ought not to be credited! (as if Protestant Treason were not as downright Treason as the Jesuitical.

And during the managery of these affairs, What horrid affronts and indignities has there been offered to his Majesties Sacred person and Government by a great many among us? Have they not accused him as guilty of a Plot against himself; (oh horrid malice!) bespatter'd his Royal Brother with all the terms that an ingrateful Generation could load him with (oh where's liberty of Conscience now)?

Then, how have we endeavoured to tare from the the bosom of the King all his best friends, such I say as dare look Popery and Arbitrary Government in the face, with Indignation? and yet these forsooth are the men accused for introducing them.

How have many among us cherished those Incendiaries in their bosoms, such as *College*, *Father Hickringbil*, and *Franck Smith*, the Treasonable Peers Speech; yea, how delightful have these been in the eyes of ill principled men.

What pains have a great many among us taken night and day, in caballing and clubbing to promote disaffected persons to the Government of this City? Witness some late excellent Sheriffs, and hot-headed Common-Council-men; can you imagine these things pleasing to the King? These and many more such-like doings among us, no doubt have been the true cause why his Majesty has called in question our Charter; and it was high time for him so to do, when he beheld how things went amongst us, when we must pack Juries to acquit Treason in an Achitophel, and condemn, censure, and Fine the persons of those who act against such enormities.

Well, since things are now brought to this pass, what will be most advisable to retrieve our Reputation and Honour? I shall therefore humbly offer these six Proposals, and leave it to the Consideration of all Loyal hearted Citizens.

1. That in order to the keeping up the honour and good reputation of the City with his Majesty, it will be necessary that we all agree as one man in Electing such publick Officers. (especially Sheriffs and Common-Council-men) as will administer Justice Impartially in our City to all Men: I say such who are of unquestionable Integrity, of true Loyalty, and conformable in all respects to the Establish'd Church of *England*; by this means we shall defeat the Councils of Achitophel. We shall have no more packing Juries, discontented and factious men will be weary of their fruitless Clubs and Cabals: In short, by this means we shall put to shame and reproach all those Sons of *Belial* that now disturb our Peace.

2. That we have such due reverence and veneration for his Sacred Majesty, and the Royal Family, as becomes Loyal hearted persons; and severely punish those which in the least, either by speaking in publick Coffee-Houses, or by writing and publishing undue reflections on the King or any of his Ministers or any branch or part of the Government.

3. That in order to the suppression of all Faction and Sedition among us, we forthwith put the Laws in Execution against all seditious Conventicles and unlawful Assemblies, (Those Nurseries of Treason and Rebellion) especially those whose avowed principles are diametrically opposite to all our Constitutions Sacred or Civil.

4. That we whose hearts are set upon peace and unity, would endeavour by meekness to reclaim the Erroneous, such who follow the Counsels of *Will: with a whisp*, the men of faction and discontent, whose paths are paths of wickedness, and directly lead down to the Chambers of death. Let us beware how we engage with the followers of *Absalom*, since by such waies we sin against God, and rebel against our King.

5. That since the great God of Heaven Reigns among the Children of men, and raises up and pulleth down the Monarchies of the Earth, as it pleaseth him, so we would all acquiesce in his Providence, not murmuring, plotting, or contriving by unlawful ways how to settle Successors to the Crown according to our own humours; that those persons, who countenance, and advise in such cases may be lookt on as Sons of *Belial* among us.

6. That we all joyn together as one man to Love God with all our hearts, to Honour and obey our Gracious King, to live together in unity and peace, to suppress all wickedness and vice, (especially Swearing and Drunkenness, the Pride and Harlotry of the City and the like detestable crimes;) to relieve the oppressed, and be just to the Orphan and the Widdow. So shall we secure to our selves our immunities and priviledges, please God and our Prince, and be a happy people.