
THE
COUNTRIES ADVICE
TO THE
CITY;

In a Letter from a Loyal Country Gentleman,
to a Loyal Citizen.

S I R,

AS you have always professed a friendship towards me, and as I have always had cause to believe you; both for the truth and ingenuity of your Intelligence, during these three years correspondence that hath been between us, and the weight of your advice: You must not take it ill, that I lay hold of this opportunity to be out of your debt, both by giving you account how Affairs stand now in the Country, and to inform you what sentiments we honest well-meaning Gentlemen here, have of your present conjuncture.

In the first place give us leave to be proud that the Loyalty which dived first out of sight with you at *London*, rose first with us in the Country; witness the early Addresses and Abhorrencies presented from all parts of us, in earnest of our Zeal for the Kings Prerogative, Safety, Government, and the right of Succession; against the Encroachers upon, and Traitors to his Royal Crown, Life, and Dignity. To mention particulars would be impertinent, every Pamphlet having worn them out: But excuse me if I grow something free in what shall follow, by telling you what we have been, what we are, and what we expect for our further Instruction, our present Confirmation, and future Security.

We have been for the four years last past almost driven to the brink of Rebellion, and by such subtle Methods, such dangerous Persuasions, that nothing but the natural born and inbred Loyalty delivered us down from our Ancestors, could have avoided it. Our Zeal hath been imposed upon, our Loyalty sophisticated and poisoned with unnatural and unreasonable fears, insinuated by the crafty specious, and hypocritical machinations of such as pretended to be the Patrons of our Lives, Liberties, and Fortunes, when the bottom of their design was nothing but

but to involve us in Confusion, that in the midst of the raging Plague, they might have the fairer opportunity of executing plausible Murder, warrantable Tyranny, and publick Rapine.

Charm'd to this Lethargy long we lay asleep, and while the unnatural drowfiness lasted, doubtless had dreams as extravagant and outrageous as yours at *London*, till his Majesties gracious Declaration opened our eyes, and awakened us again: though had we been so nearly quartered under his Fatherly Wing as you immediately were, we should not have been so slow in our loyalty, but perhaps given you more early examples of what English men and honest men owe to the gracious Government they for these many years have grown too rich, and therefore too wanton under.

Our present condition is this, We are in a word *Loyal*; satisfied of the goodness and clemency of our King, and armed against the Endeavours of his Enemies. We have Purfes, Hearts, and Hands at his service, and it shall not be our fault if they fail him.

But to compleat the glorious condition we are at this time ripening into, it lies now meerly on your part, (being nearest for application) so to manage your Interest for the safety of your selves, and the welfare of us your younger Brethren of the Country, that we may no more be exposed to those flattering Gales that would have enticed us out to Sea, and then storm'd upon us to our ruine.

You have now Magistrates that are loyal, let them not be idle: Let them consider they enter upon, in part, a debauched, loosened, and abused Authority; let them gather up and strengthen the failing parts of it; hinge it again, and make it turn upon those easie Wheels of Peace and Justice that supported it before, ere mischievous Villains had in their power, and did what they could to mangle and debilitate it.

As you may have frequent access to Him, make to your power our gracious King sensible that nothing but want of his own encouragement can make you slow to execute his Authority. As you love yours and all *Englands* Peace, beg of him to shut his ears and eyes to the faithless humility of such, who, now they cannot reach his Crown, pretend to kneel and kiss his feet for mercy. Take up the freedom of loyal and deserving Subjects, to let him know his Foes are not with safety to be bought off twice, nor his Friends a second time discouraged. Tell him that now he must resolve to be a King; his Foes are under his feet, let him not tread lightly, lest they rise up behind him and sting him once more in his security; Justice is in his power now, and Mercy will be always.

Commend me to all such as you know I value: I mean such as have dared to speak, and do honestly in all times. Converts, I must confess, are but with me upon their good behaviour. But let Vertue flourish, how late sown so ere it be. Heaven prosper and improve the general Peace now dawning upon us, and then the wishes will be completed of

Sir,

Your hearty Friend and Servant: