

A TRUE
NARRATIVE,
OF THE
ARRAIGNMENT,
Tryal and Conviction,
OF
Thomas Dangerfield
FOR
High-Misdemeanors

Against His Present Majesty *JAMES* the Second, at the *King's-Bench-Barr*
at *Westminster*. On *Saturday May* the 30th. 1685.

THis day being the 30th. of *May*, 1685. The Villanies, Impostures and Perjuries of *Thomas Dangerfield*, alias *Willoughby*, one of the Evangelists of the late pretended Popish Plot, (one Second to none except *Oates*, in the most flagitious Rogueries) were brought to light by unquestionable Evidences; the Proceedings are as follow.

About Eight of the Clock in the Forenoon, my Lord *Chief Justice Jefferies* with two more of his Brethren being on the Bench, the *Jury* was called, being all persons of considerable Estates and Quality, against whom *Dangerfield* brought no exceptions, and so it was quickly Impannelled: Then the Indictment was read, the Sum of which was that he had given into the *House of Lords* a most Dangerous, Seditious and False Accusation against his Royal Highness *James D. of York*, (now our present King) and used all endeavours to bring hatred and contempt upon him, and set him and his Brother at variance by falsely Swearing that our present King gave him Twenty Guineys to Kill his Dear Brother of Blessed Memory, and that he the said *Dangerfield* was Hyred by several persons of Quality to stife the then Rampant *Popish Plot*, and to throw it upon the *Presbyterians*; the Falsity of all which, was proved by undeniable Evidence. The Indictment was in few words open'd by *Mr. Phips*, and then *Mr. Attorney General* began to mannage the Evidence for the King. First, *Mr. Samuel Clark* and *Mr. Martin* proved that, that Information was *Dangerfields*, and that he was the Author of the forementioned *Libellious Narrative*: After this was proved, they began to make direct Proofs First, was called the *Earl of Peterborough*, who gave a large and pertinent Evidence; the substance of which was, that *Dangerfield* was recommended to him as a person that could discover great matters, concerning the disaffected disloyal party of *England*; commonly called *Presbyterians*; after he not then knowing his Roguery, he was introduced by him to his Royal Highness, pretending to make a full discovery of a horrid Plot against the Government, and particularly his Royal Highness, then pretending great poverty, and that he had pawned his Cloaths for the service of the Government; the *DUKE* out of Charity gave him some Ten pounds (which after the Rogue said was for killing the *KING*) and afterwards he got Audience of the *KING*, and told the *KING* the same Flain and got some Forty pounds, but the *KING* would not hear him privately alone by the *DUKE's* advice, lest he might prove a Rogue, as it after appeared he was so, that he never had Audience of the *KING* or *DUKE* alone, as was proved by several



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ral Witnesses. My Lord *Peterborough* said that after he had come to Court twice or thrice he began to smell a Rat; he likewise Swore in the presence of the Great God, that whereas *Dangerfield* had charged him with contriving a Book that contained the substance of the after pretended *Sham Meal-Tub Plot* that all was false.

The next Evidence for the KING was Coll. *Halsal*, who backed my Lord *Peterborough's* Evidence by several Circumstances, and told the Court how that being asked by the KING his Opinion of *Dangerfield*, he replied, That he looked upon him to be a Pick-pocket Rogue; and that he looked upon all that he Swore to be Roguery, because he could not produce the Commission he pretended he should have had from Sir *William Waller*.

The next Evidence for the KING was Mr. *Cellier*, who gave Evidence that one time *Dangerfield* came to his house, Curling and Swearing, and said that in Case he was not better furnished with Money, he would tack about and go from the Evidence he had given against the disaffected Party and become an Evidence for them, saying, He was sure they would furnish him with Money enough, and endeavour to prefer him, and procure him a Commission.

Then my Lady *Powis* attested that she never heard of *Dangerfield*, till he had Accused her before the Council, and whereas he had formerly sworn that he had several Papers from her, all was False, and that he was not able to produce one.

My Lord *Powis* attested that he never saw *Dangerfield* so as to know him from another man, and that all was False that he had spoke of Treason concerning his Lordship, and that he never came to him with any such Treasonable Message as he pretended; much what the same Evidence was given by one Sr. — *Harvey* and Mrs. *Hill*: After this the Kings Council to shew how great a Rogue he was, and how little credit he deserv'd, produced in Court several Records of former Convictions in several Courts in *England*: First a Record was produced, for breaking a house here in or about *London*, and that he was found Guilty of the Felony, but not of the Burglary: Then another Record was produced for his breaking a house in *Essex*: Then three or four Convictions for putting off False Guineys, for which he had several times stood in the Pillory at *New Sarum* in *Wiltshire*.

After this Evidence for the King had done, *Dangerfield* began to make his Defence which was just such another Cant, as his Brother *Oates* made in his Tryal, viz. That their Evidence was the Prop of the Protestant Religion (which made great laughter in the Court) that the King was Judge and Plaintiff, and began to make Saucy reflections upon several honest men, but was sharply reproved by my Lord Chief Justice and kept within his bounds, which was observed to put him a little out of his *Newgate* Rethorick, which was nothing but some flourishes upon general matters of the late deceased Popish Plot, then he was desired to make a particular defence, and he called several Witnesses which all concluded with something against himself, as the *Salamanca* Doctor's did.

First, One Mr. *Cooper* the Clerk of *Newgate* being asked by *Dangerfield* what Evidence he could give, replied, He never saw him, and Mrs. *Cellier* together, as *Dangerfield* said, more that he believed him to be a Rogue, so he had been three times in their Custody in *Newgate*. Capt. *Richardson* attested the same, and that he knew nothing of an intregue betwixt Mrs. *Cellier* and *Dangerfield*. Sir *Thomas Doleman* said he remembered little, for he had been since struck with a Palsey. Sir *John Nicols* was called but appeared not; then *Dangerfield* called *Thomas Williams*, *William Scarlet*, and *Hemy Sherbourn*, but none of them appeared, then one Mr. *Blasdel* an Apothecary, but he proved him to be a great Rogue; then he called one *William Tilbury*, but he knew nothing of the Matter, only that he Lodged sometimes at his House, and *Dangerfield* pretended Acquaintance with my Lord *Powis's* Family; then were called several more but did not appear. Mr. *Chiffinch* attested the same that my Lord *Peterborough* and Coll. *Halsal*, and nothing to the prisoners advantage. Last of all, was called one Mr. *Stretch* by *Dangerfield*, who instead of doing him service, proved that while the said Mr. *Stretch* was searching Coll. *Mansels* Chamber, that *Dangerfield* pinned the Seditious paper upon the Wall. The prisoner having made what pitiful defence he could, which as you have heard was nothing to the purpose, but to prove himself the greater Rogue.

My Lord Chief Justice most Elegantly and Succinctly Sumed up the Evidedce, telling the Jury what a Monster of Wickedness the prisoner was, and how the Honour of the Nation was concerned, and in seeing such profligated Rogues brought to Condign Punishment and how that the Evidence was beyond all exceptions; so that without going from the Bar the Jury found him Guilty of the Indictment: Here's an end of the Evidence of the once admired *Dangerfield*, who was abetted by the *Whiggs* to endeavour to Tarnish the Lustre of the Glory of the best and greatest of Princes.