

# The Prince of Orange

H I S

# S P E E C H,

In Defence of the

# Protestant Religion.

Gentlemen, and Fellow Soldiers,

**I**T is not a little satisfaction to me, That having an Army compos'd of so many different Nations; I do notwithstanding find them unanimously bent to maintain and prosecute, to the utmost, the Cause I have now undertaken. And though by several Declarations, I have (as I believe) sufficiently satisfied both you, and all *England*, of the Sincerity, as well as the necessity of these my Actions and Designs. I shall not, however, think it unnecessary, or superfluous, briefly to repeat and Sum up some things which may serve you for satisfaction, as to matters past, as well as Encouragement for the Future.

That *England*, and the *United Provinces*, are the Two main Pillars, whereon all the Reformed Churches of *Europe* seem to depend, is to us rather the Envy than the Doubt of our Adversaries now at the Court of *Rome*, and lately of *England*, not only to weaken, but wholly to root out even the Name of *Protestant*, each Man's private Diurnal, as well as our publick Annals, do sufficiently Testifie; nor is that Breach made by the restless Malice of our Enemies (urg'd by a late Opportunity) in the Laws and Liberties of these Kingdoms, so effectually made up as to free us from the Suspicion and Fear of a more dangerous Relapse. What therefore remains, but that we apply such Remedies, as shall not only for the present Ease us, but for the future Secure us. Lenitives have, to our cost, been too long thrown away on the Canker'd Hearts of our Irreconcilable Enemies. God's Providence, not our Swords, proving the only Antidote against their Poyson. The present Persecution of the poor *Protestants* in *Ireland*, is but as a Prologue to their intended Miseries, had it not by Providence been timely prevented: nor did the Laws and Liberties of the People of *England*, seem a sufficient Sacrifice to their Hungry Zeal for the present, unless by Methods as Sophistical as their Doctrine, they might bind and secure them to Posterity. We have seen the Corruption of Judges (those betrayers of their Country,) the Oppression of the Bishops (those Pillars of the Church,) the Abuses of most of the great Offices (Civil and Military,) private Cabals, and publick Grievances; and all to promote a Faction as uneasie, as contrary to all Moral Conversation. Let us therefore, Gentlemen and Fellow Soldiers, with Courage and Constancy, Oppose and Disarm these common Disturbers of the Peace of Christendome. If our Adversaries boast of *French* Supplies, and *Irish* Succours (while you are resolv'd and united in your Hearts:) I value them not; I fear not the Strength of the *One*; and, I thank God, can Laugh at the Malice of the *Other*. Let us vigorously Tread that Path, which *God* Almighty seems to have peculiarly mark'd out for us. If there be any of you that either distrust your own Courages, or are dissatisfied with the Cause you have undertaken, I freely give you Liberty and safe Conduct to your several Abodes. I will, *My Self*, be both the Spectator and Rewarder of all your Actions; resolving to be the Personal Example of your Courage and Resolution. I Exhort and Command you to be Dutiful and Obedient to your several respective Commanders. To forbear, on pain of Death, all Fraud or Pillages on the Citizens; and to be careful and vigilant in your respective Posts; and, as I believe, you are sufficiently satisfied with the *Justice* of our Cause; so, by the help of *God*, (which I chiefly Exhort you constantly to Pray for) I doubt not of a happy and speedy Success, as in other places, so in *London*.

