

An Honest Man's WISH

FOR THE

Prince of ORANGE.

I. I could *Wish* (though now indeed it is too late to *Wish*;) That the King had so well consulted the Happiness of his own Person, his Children, and Subjects, as not to have deserted his Kingdoms, but to have treated and complied with the Prince of *Orange*, who (I believe) came not to demand the least thing Unreasonable. But since he is gone, and another Governour must be sought for,

II. I could *Wish*, That the Prince of *Orange's* Title had not been so far Distant from the Crown: And that not only because He has with the greatest Toyl, Hazard, and Expence so generously undertook (and, I hope, compleated) our Deliverance from the very worst of Slavery and Bondage; but also because I believe Him to be a Person for Virtue, Goodness, Courage, Conduct, and all other Princely Qualifications most fit to Govern.

III. I could *Wish*, That for these High Services and Merits, an answerable Recompence might soon be thought of, and made to His Royal Highness. But then what is there in this World that can truly answer them? Surely these Three great and flourishing Kingdoms will never sufficiently requite such wonderful Desert. However

IV. I could *Wish*, That some Men who now seek to requite Him with the Crown, would consider whether they do not at last requite Him with the greatest Affront and Injury. For whilst they pretend to Bestow or Give it, they do indeed confront the very Words of the Prince's own most Gracious Declaration, wherein he assures Us that He came to preserve the Right of Succession. Now the Giving of it (I presume) must Suppose it to be in their Power or Disposal; and so it shall become meerly Elective, which will quite destroy the Right of Succession that He by Promise has engaged Himself to maintain. And then if there be any such thing as a Right of Succession, whilst they suppose that the Prince of *Orange* will accept the Crown from their Hands, they must needs suppose Him to be Unjust in receiving that which as yet belongs to another, unless they can prove that the Two next which ought to come in before him have any way forfeited their Right. And all this, I think, is no very Friendly Requital. But this may not prove the worst yet. For whilst they break the course of Succession by Giving the Kingdome to Him, and make it thus Elective, they may possibly do the greatest Injury both to Him, and his Heirs after Him, though they should be the Issue of his own very Body. For the Son will have no better a Title than the Father: And as no Man knows whether his Son shall be a *wise* man, or a *fool*; so if he should seem a Fool in the Eyes of a Reigning Parliament or Convention, and not fit to Govern, then what is become of his Inheritance? And so for the Prince himself: should he receive the Crown now as a Gift from the Parliament or Convention, and that also by their most Unanimous Consent; yet still, I fear, he would not be very secure in the possession of it. For the Power that *gives* may soon challenge the same Power to *take away* likewise. And as the Humours of the Body Natural are said to be all changed once in Seven Years, so may it be (if not much sooner also) in such a Body Politick. Nor can this be any strange thing to suppose, if we consider the Years that are past. So that the Prince after all (if he receive the Crown by way of Donation,) must be bound up to His Good Behaviour, and have a great care of Provoking or Disobliging, lest the very Donor pretend some kind of Forfeiture. Again, suppose a great part of the Three Kingdoms should be possessed with the Injustice of His Title, and appear in Earnest for One whose Right it is, who knows but such Struglings and Convulsions may follow, as may make Him the most Unhappy who is doubtless the most Meritorious among Princes? And therefore for these Reasons, Lastly

V. I could *Wish*, That the Wisdome of the Nation at this time Conveen'd, would think of some other way to express their Gratitude to this Most Excellent Prince, who under God has been Our only Deliverer. And doubtless no good Protestant can ever think they go too far, whilst they act by the Rules of Law and Justice, without Subverting the Old Foundation. But because after all, nothing that we can do will be a Valuable Compensation for His Merits; I shall turn my good *Wishes* into most hearty *Prayers*, begging earnestly of God, That he would become His *Exceeding great Reward*, and give Him the Blessing of *Abraham*, who has been the wonderful Preserver, as he was the Father of the Faithful; That he would make his Temporal Glory, Joy, and Happiness great and lasting, and then change it into that which is Infinite and Eternal.