

29

P R O P O S A L S

To this present Convention;

For the perpetual Security of the

Protestant Religion,

AND THE

Liberty of the Subjects of England;

Humbly Offer'd

By the Author of the *BREVIATE*.

AFTER the Great Blessings that seem designed for the whole Nation, from the happy Agreement between the *Two Houses*, in that Great Point before them, the *Vacancy of the Throne*; I cannot, but crave Pardon and Leave to put the *Representatives* of the Nation in Remembrance, that though this *Vacating* of the Throne opens so large a Door to our Great and many Deliverances, yet our lasting Security is not intirely compleated here; and that therefore they baulk not the next Point, which is as stoutly to be Asserted, viz. *That the Power now of Settling the Government, and filling the Vacancy, is reverted to the Community, whereof they are the Representatives.* This is an opportunity we are like never to have again in the World; and a Precedent ought to be made for the Ages to come. It is not to be thought after an Agreement on the first Point, but that this *Convention* is willing to invest the Prince of *ORANGE* with the Government, during his Life; (for they say, both the *Princesses* are willing it should be so, and no prejudice to either:) But how this can be orderly done, until the Power be asserted; let the Wisdom of the Nation consider, and lay it well to Heart.

There is One main Objection, If the *Convention* choose a *King* and *Queen* at this Time, then will the *Government* be for ever *Elective*; But this is a great Mistake; for, we must know, it is the *Constitution* of a *Government*, which makes it *Elective* or *Hereditary*, and not One *Actual Choice*, or *single Precedent*. This being (note that well) by a *Convention* not a *Parliament*: whilst in the present Juncture, that *Vacancy* in the Throne (which may never happen again to the End of the World,) leaves us no other means or expedients of re-establishing our *Government*, than by *Electing Our Governour*.

When an *Hereditary Kingdom* is set up that was none before, the Person on necessity must be by *Election* at first; though at the same time, the Compact of Obedience to the Person so *Elected*, and to his *Lineal Heirs* in Succession after him, may be such, that what at first was in the Peoples *Power* and *Right* to give, after Submission paid, will never lye in their Power to resume back: The Case is the same here. We understand then, when it is resolved, that the *Throne* is vacant, or *Government* dissolved, (which is all one) the meaning is not, that the *Constitution* of the *Government* is dissolved, (for therefore is it so warily exprest) but the *Government* in the *Administration*. It is Essential to Government to have *pars Imperans*, and *pars subdita*; and the *pars Imperans* failing (as in our Case) the *Government* is Not; that is, it is dissolved so, as there can be no Exercise of it, till it be settled again: nothing that the *King* can do, or *Parliament* can do, can vacate the *Constitution*: It is *That* they both *Derive* from, and *hold* by. Only the *Community* being those, as first made it, (it must be confest) they can *dissolve* it, or *change* it, if they think fit. The *King* hath not yet dissolved it; but the *Convention* (being, upon the Dissolution of the *Government* in the Exercise, call'd thus together, as Deputies of the *Community*, to set that up, may do so, or what is better they may confirm the *Fundamental Points* of it, and Mend the Rest, as they see good. It were then Advisable, both for the Honour and Safety of the Nation, That the *Convention* did agree and declare, that the *Government* of *England* be still an *Hereditary Limited Monarchy*; with this change only, that the Descent of the *Crown* be bound to a *Protestant*. This salves the Objection for ever.

Beit agreed and declared again, That the *Government* be still a *Mixt Government*; and that the *Supream Legislative Power*, with all the Rights and Properties of it, do, and shall lie in a *Parliament*.

For Gods sake and Your Countries, use your present Advantage; least you mourn the Loss of so favourable an offered opportunity, never to be regain'd.

The *Constitution* (I say) of the *Government* should be considered and declared, and the Power of this *Convention* to dispose of *new Governours* be asserted, before the *Actual Investiture* of Any be concluded, if we resolve to be true Subjects of *England*, or have any Regard to our selves, or our Posterity, in a Concern so valuable, as Generations to come shall reap the Blessing of it, and acknowledge the Founders.

London, Printed for T. Tillier, 1689.

