

May the 7th. 1701.

To the Honourable House of COMMONS.

I Can assure Your Honours that not any thing rejoyc'd me more, than to hear that you ordered a BILL to be brought in, to take off the Priviledges of the House, the very thoughts did me good; and I made it my business to declare the good News, all the way I went home, but they could hardly believe it, but said, *If they did so there, would be a rare Parliament indeed, for then they would go the right way to mend the World*; but some replied, *I'll warrant it will be stung out, and they will never let it pass*: But I hope you will all unite together, that it may pass, for there is not any thing more for your true honour, than to take off the scandal; for there is a report abroad, how true it is, I know not, that some endeavours to be Parliament Men, because they would be under a Protection, therefore how dishonourable is it for Your Honours that scorns any such thing; and if there be any amongst you that lies under such Circumstances, let them have time allowed them, that they may pay their Debts, and in time your House will become glorious; and you your selves will obtain Favour before God and Man, and will be counted the best of Parliaments.

The Second thing that I recommend to your Wisdom, Justice, and Goodness, is the settling of the Old *East-India* Company, and I do not know any thing will make you more glorious through the Christian World than that, for all People is apt to say they have been hardly dealt with, and not any will justify the making of a new One, because that destroys all, and there cannot be any thing but tearing and rending one another, in under-selling at home, and over-bidding abroad, and in a little time this will destroy them both; and they cannot be united no more than *Cain to Abel*, or *Judas to Christ*, or *Saul to David*; and for the two Trades it is too much, and it will destroy the Trade of the Nation, and for any one to think to destroy them both, will be such a piece of Cruelty, that never was acted since the beginning of the World, therefore it is reason one should stand, and that is the first, according to Right and Justice. And the King was so gracious that he recommended to his Parliament the care of the *East-India* Trade, lest it should be a loss to the Nation, therefore no one can think that the destroying of the Old Company can be a gain, for it supports the Granduer, and it is an advantage to the Crown, and I hope there is not any one will slight the Granduer of the Nation: For King *Charles* had a great Veneration for it, and would not lessen it, though he might have had a great many Thousands, to unmake the *East-India* Company, but he would not be guilty of such an unjust Action, if he had wanted Money never so much, and his Parliament never so unkind: Therefore God forbid that Your Honours should do any thing, but what might be for the Glory of the *East-India* Trade, and God forbid but that all should be for the good of their own Nation, for it will be high ingratitude to lessen our selves to promote the Dutch; for I cannot tell whether Queen *Elizabeth* did well or ill, in first espousing their Cause, for I do not know what Foundation they stand upon, or whether it is justifiable before God or not: You should look into that your self, for we have spent a great deal of Money in their Defence, and if they do not stand upon a good Foundation, there will be no end.

And thirdly, I would intreat Your Honours for the Lords sake to be wise and moderate, that we may have the Blessing of Peace at home: For when *Adam* transgress Gods Commandments, and was to be turned out of Paradise, the Great God did not come with fury and anger, but He came in the cool of the Evening, and call'd him with a moderate call, for if he had come with fury and anger, and threatened them with His Great Power, it would affrighted them out of their Senses: But, this is to teach Men Wisdom, that when they are greatly tried, they should be most moderate; so I would intreat you to shew the like moderation to your Brethren, to those that has offended you. As for my Lord *Sommers* I do know him; and he did carry himself prudently and moderately in his Office, and did take a great deal of care, that those Clergy-men that he prefer'd into Places should be qualified; for which cause, made me to have a great respect for him, and would have had him begun a Reformation, since God had done such great things for him, not only made him Great, but gave him Accomplishments fit and suitable to his Greatness: So I came to entreat him that he might return something suitable to those Mercies, knowing that the Age was loose, that he should be instrumental to begin a Reformation; but he told me that he had but two Voices, and so refused it, but if he had hearkened to me, God would have kept him in his Greatness still: For God has a Controversie with great Men, if they do not live up to the Mercies they receive, and honour him in his Government: For the whole Nation lies under his displeasure, and the most part of Mankind lives contrary to the Will of God, which causes Judgments to be poured out upon the Earth; and therefore you must be wise Physicians to Cure with gentleness, not with the loss of Life, nor with the taking away of Estates, but Mercy and Goodness reclaim them from the Breach of Gods Laws, and God will Establish your Power more than you are able to do your selves. And consider how violent the People was at that time for a Peace, and that there was not any thing would satisfy them without it: And the King could not tell what to do, for he was



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in a freight, and he feared that you would never agree to it, and that would have made a great confusion in the Kingdom, and therefore necessity drove him for to do it without you, and will you be angry with them that assisted the King in such great necessity. I must needs say, if Princes have Laws and Rules to walk by, that they should be careful not to break them; but then there should be care taken, that they might be well instructed, that they may not break them knowingly. And great Officers should be Men of sincerity and integrity, that if a King should desire any thing contrary to the Law, they should not satisfy him, but do as Judge Street did: For when King James did desire the Dispensing Power, he would not yield to it, as knowing that he had no Right to it: And King James sent for him to know the reason why he should stand against it, when the rest did not; but when he came, the King said, *My Lord, I know you have always been an honest Man, and true to the Crown, and I wonder why you should be against me above all the rest;* and the Judge replied, *I give your Majesty hearty thanks for conferring such a great Title upon me, to say that I am an honest Man, and have been always true to the Crown, and indeed so I have, but if I should do what your Majesty desires me, I could not be honest, but I should betray the Crown, which is my Resolution that I will never be guilty of.* Here was a brave Pattern; this Judges Memory ought to be precious: And King James never turned him out, but when there was any thing depending upon the matters of Judges, he would inquire of him before any of the rest; and this was a great encouragement to faithfulness. And when God made the Heavens, and the Earth, and all things else, He made them subject to Commands, and by the keeping of those Commands, they submitted to the Supreme Government; but when broken they were rebellious, and brought all things into a confusion: For, What confusion has Man brought upon himself, by the Breach of Gods Commands? But he thinks to excuse himself by laying it upon the Woman, but I would to God I had Power and Wisdom to outwit this suttle Serpent, that deceived our First Parents, and has destroyed and overthrown Kingdoms and Nations ever since, and deluded the best of Mankind by deceit, and now he is become Antichrist, and all false Doctrins and false Worship proceeds from him, and he does it designedly to fling down the Truth; for there is not any thing can be true, but what comes from the God of Truth: Therefore Antichrist cannot be true, though he speaks like an Angel, because it proceeds from the Devil: And observe the difference between the true Christ and the Antichrist; for when Christ was in the Flesh, he did all Offices of goodness, in casting out evil Spirits, healing of the Sick, and feeding the Hungry, and opening the Eyes of the Blind; but when Antichrist had Power he called for Fire from Heaven, and was instrumental to bring woes upon the Earth, and out of their Mouths proceeded filthy words; and when the Dragon persecuted the Woman, he made account to destroy her, with the great Flood that came out of his Mouth, and these were false Accusations, that he thought the People should destroy her; but the Earth helped the Woman, and opened her Mouth, and swallowed up the Flood. Oh! What a mighty deliverance was this, and it may well be said to be a great Wonder for a Woman to War with the Devil. *The Lord grant that the whole Kingdom may be more than Conquerors in this Spiritual War;* and your Honours may with Gods Directions, and his Blessings be able to bring this great Work to perfection. I am glad to hear that you take such prudent care for the good of the Seamen, for it will exalt your Glory highly to be kind and just to them: For, how can Men venture their Lives freely, when they are oppressed with unjust Cruelties, as to want every thing, and to have Money due to them, and cannot have it, is a crying Sin? However the Seamen are very desperate and wicked, for Swearing, Damning and Sinking; but if Your Honours takes care that they may have justice done them, and the Officers not to wrong them, you may have Power over this unclean Spirit that reigns amongst them: And I can assure you that Two hundred sober Men that fears God, shall do more good than Five hundred Wicked, Swearing, Damning Creatures: For it is a shame for any Christian Government to have such wicked Wretches to serve them; but I do not doubt if you go about it, with Gods Blessing you may do these poor Souls a great deal of good, if you make a Law that they shall not Swear: And for young Boys to domineer over Old Matrons that understands better than they do, is a high provocation to cause them to Swear: And I would not have any to be Governours, but what should rise by degrees, according to their Merit; and this will make all Men studious, and careful to be good Seamen for Honour's sake. As for my Lady *Anglesey* I am very sorry for her, and I would intreat Your Honours to be like good Angels to deliver her. I count it a great happiness that we have Peace, though I do not fear the King of *France*, for I fasted Fourteen days in King *Charles's* time, that he should not Conquer *England*, and he shall never have the Honour to bring over King *James*; for when he does come, it shall be with Consent of King and Parliament, but when God does this, he will glorifie himself; for Antichrist and his Worship must totally fall, and all Churches restored to the pure Worship of Christ: That is, to Worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, through the Merits of a Crucified Saviour.

The Most High God that is able to do all things, keep you, guide, and direct you, both now and for ever, is the Prayers of her, who is your humble Servant, and Souls-well-wisher,

ELINOR JAMES.