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An Answer to a LETTER sent to a Gentleman in Gloucester-Shire, about Electing a New PARLIAMENT.

Although the *Letter* be so trifling that it deserves no Answer, yet because the generality of Mankind see no farther than their *Noses*, and are always Bias'd with the Story they heard last; to put those false Notions out of their Heads, which that *Letter* may have put into them, it may not be amiss at this time to Print something in contradiction to it. In the beginning, the Author tells us, *That though the King was for some Reasons prevail'd with to give the Commons the Complement of Thanks at the end of the last Session, yet his Majesty does not so well approve of their Temper, Inclination and Behaviour, as to think it safe to trust the same Gentlemen any more, at a time when our Religion and Liberties, nay, perhaps the very Being of England, and the Fate of Europe lie at Stake.* In which he Reflects severely upon his *Majesty*, for what *Princes* speak from their *Thrones* to the *Two Houses of Parliament*, used always to be look'd upon as serious, and what the *Nation* might depend upon: otherwise the *Subjects* are but in a very bad condition, if what the King delivers after so solemn a manner before so *August an Assembly* must pass for Complement: For if not at such a time, when is a King's Word to be relied on? But what he calls *Complement*, was not only at the end of the *Session*, but during the whole time of it: And so frequently repeated, that one might have thought the *King* had been intirely pleas'd with their Behaviour, and considering the Circumstances we were then in, it will puzzle a wiser Head than I presume the Writer of the *Letter* has, to tell what any *Parliament* could have done more the than last *Parliament* did. At the beginning of the *Parliament*, *February* the 14th. 1700. they Resolv'd *Nemine Contradicente*, to stand by and Support his *Majesty* and his Government, and take such effectual Measures as might best conduce to the Interest and Safety of *England*, the Preservation of the *Protestant Religion*, and the Peace of *Europe*. For which their ready Concurrence to those great Ends, they receiv'd his *Majesty's* Thanks the *Monday* following. *Thursday* the 20th. of *February*, they Resolved *Nemine Contradicente*, That an humble Address be made to his *Majesty* that he will please to enter into such Negotiations in Concert with the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, and other *Potentates*, as may most effectually conduce to the mutual Safety of these *Kingdoms*, and the *States General*, and the Preservation of the Peace of *Europe*; and giving him assurances of Support and Assistance, &c. which they did, and receiv'd his *Majesty's* Thanks the next day. *April* the 3d. a Supply is Voted- *May* the 9th. they Resolved *Nemine Contradicente*, That this House will effectually Assist his *Majesty* to Support his *Allies* in Maintaining the Liberty of *Europe*; for which his *Majesty* return'd them Thanks the day following. And *June* the 12th. his *Majesty* in his Speech to both *Houses*, Thanks them again for their Repeated Assurances of Supporting him in such *Alliances* as shall be most proper for the Preservation of the Liberty of *Europe*, and expressed his *Royal* Approbation of the Proceedings of the *House of Commons*; and the same day it was Resolved by the *House of Commons*, *Nemine Contradicente*, That upon all occasions this *House* will be ready to assist his *Majesty* in Supporting of those *Alliances* his *Majesty* shall think fit to make in Conjunction with the *Emperor* and the *States General* for Preservation of the Liberties of *Europe*, the Prosperity and Peace of *England*, and for reducing the Exorbitant Power of *France*, and Addressed his *Majesty* to that effect, which his *Majesty* received very Graciously, and returned them his hearty Thanks. And his *Majesty* in his last Speech to both *Houses*, expresses himself in these Words, *I must return you my hearty Thanks for the great Zeal you have express'd for the Publick Service, and your ready Compliance with those things I recommended to you at the opening of the Parliament And I must Thank you Gentlemen of the House of Commons in particular, both for your Dispatch of those necessary Supplies which you have Granted for the Publick Occasions, and for the Encouragement you have given me to enter into Alliances for the Preservation of the Liberty of Europe, and the Support of the Confederacy, in which, as it shall be my Care, not to put the Nation to any unnecessary Expence, so I make no doubt, that whatsoever shall be done during your Recess for the Advantage of the Common Cause in this matter, will have your Approbation at Meeting in Winter.* And after all these Proceedings with which his *Majesty* seem'd from time to time to be so very well pleas'd, and his speaking of meeting them the next *Winter*, who could have imagin'd as the Author of the *Letter* tells us, that his *Majesty* did not think it safe to trust the same *Gentlemen* any more. The Story he mentions of the *French* and *Spanish* Agents entertaining at Supper Three *Members*, he pickt up I presume from a Scurrilous Paper writ on purpose to abuse those Three worthy *Gentlemen*, and which ought rather to be look'd upon as a piece of *Drollery*, than a thing fit to be quoted upon such an Occasion.

And



And whereas he mentions *French Money* being distributed among *Parliament Men*; if he is so ready to believe flying reports, I am apt to think he may have heard of five hundred thousand *Louis d'ors* that were said to be sent over hither before the *Treaty of Partition* was sign'd, and would have done well to have told the *Nation* if he could, among whom they were distributed. I wonder with what face he can accuse the *House of Commons* of *Delays* and *delatory Trifling*; when if he has but read the *Votes*, or will but give himself the trouble to peruse a few Sheets of Paper intitled, *The several Proceedings and Resolutions of the House of Commons in relation to the Dangers that threaten England and the Liberties of Europe from the late Succession to the Crown of Spain*: He will plainly see the sense the *Commons* had of the Dangers that threatned this *Nation*, and the Liberties of *Europe*, and their early Concern and Zeal for Supporting the *Dutch* and other *Allies* against the Power of *France*. And what could Men have done more at that time than they did? both for the Safety of *England*, and Preservation of the Peace of *Europe*. The Game (if I may so speak) was in a manner lost, and the *Duke of Anjou* seated on the *Spanish Throne* before ever they were call'd together: So that the blame ought not to lie at their Door, nor the inconveniencies that may attend that *Succession* be attributed to them (as has already been made fully appear by several more able Pens): But to the *Treaty of Partition* which may prove of *Fatal Consequence* to all *Europe*. If the *Parliament* (saith the *Letter writer*) which will now be Chosen, should consist of the *same Persons* or *Men of the same Temper* with the former *Parliament*, it will be impossible to perfect or support that *Alliance* which is forming for the Security of *England* and *Europe* against the Power of *France*. This is down right impudence and giving the whole *House* the Lye, when they have already assured His Majesty as above mentioned, that they will be ready upon all occasions to assist him in Supporting such *Alliances* as he shall think fit to make for the Preservation of the Liberties of *Europe*. Again he accuses the *House of Commons* of falling into *Disputes* about things altogether unnecessary, and of unreasonable *Impeachments* and unreasonable *Imprisonments*; which is as much as to say, he would have those of his own Party in all the chiefest *Employments*, without being call'd to account for *Mis-Administration*, and to come into the *Parliament* by *Bribery* and all indirect means, no matter how, so they carry but on the Interest of their *Party*, and Money given to enrich those in *Offices*, tho' the *Publick* starve for it: Whereas all wise Men ought to consider, that as it is the Interest of the *People*, that the *King* should be in a condition to preserve Peace at Home, and likewise to defend them from their Enemies Abroad: So it is no less the Interest of the *King* that the *People* should thrive under his Government, be free from discontents, and in a capacity to contribute liberally to the *Publick Necessities*: For what *King* can Reign happily, where the *People* are extremely poor and indigent, in danger of being ruin'd by Taxes, and unable to give what the Exigencies of State may require. Toward the latter end of the Letter he tells the *People*, that if they happen to miscarry in this next *Election*, *Destruction* and *Ruin* he fears attends them; and truly I fear so too: But not from having a *Parliament* of the same temper with the last, but from having a *Parliament* made up of *Wiggs* and Men of *wiggish Principles*, whose great aim is to advance their own *Party*, tho' it be with the Ruin both of *Church* and *Monarchy*. And if such a *Parliament* should be Chose (which *God forbid*) it is much to be fear'd neither of 'em will stand long. Tho' the *Writer* of the Letter seems to rejoyce at the Dissolution of the *Parliament*, yet the news thereof was very surprizing to most honest Men; because they looked upon it to be the best *Parliament* we have had since the late *Revolution*. A *Parliament*, which by their Act against *Priviledges* so generally acted for the *Publick* good, and for which Sir *J. L. G.* deserves to be honoured by all good *People*, and the *Inhabitants* of the *City* and *Liberties* of *Westminster* by solisiting him to stand for the said *City* at this present *Election*, do plainly demonstrate to the World, how sensible the *Trading People* of the *Nation* are of the Advantages they reap thereby.

A *Parliament*, which took so much pains to have a Bill pass'd for Taking, Examining and Stating the *Publick Accounts* of the *Kingdom*; that thereby such who had robb'd the *Publick*, and procur'd to themselves great *Estates*, might be brought to condign *Punishment*, and poor *Tradesmen*, *Seamen*, *Soldiers* and others, who have *Arrears* due to them, might have Justice done them, and although that so useful *Bill* miscarried in the Upper House, yet the *Commons* by so readily passing it, did shew their Inclinations to serve the *Publick*, and their Prudent Care in requiring an Account of the many *Millions* raised upon the good *People* of *England*, which are yet unaccounted for. And the *Commissioners* appointed by the Act to take the *Accounts*, did, by their being willing to serve without *Sallaries*, and resolving to go through with their *Business*, shew themselves to be Men of *Publick Spirits*, and worthy *Patriots* of their *Country*. I might give farther Instances of the good Deeds the last *Parliament* did by their bringing in a Bill for the Preservation of the *Potestant Religion*, and several other good Bills brought into the *House of Commons*, but I do not love to be tedious, and therefore shall conclude, that, I hope all true lovers of *Monarchy* and the *Church* of *England* will endeavour to chuse the best and major part of the late *Members* again.