

# Some Remarks upon our Affairs.

**T**HIS Government either can't or will not maintain it self upon the Principles upon which it was made: Thus it sins against the Holy Ghost of the Revolution.

The Convention chose a Speaker, who chose upon a Corporation-bottom: They thrice suspended the Habeas-Corpus-Act, and those at the Helm had an inclination to have again suspended it; They settled Martial Law; They gave a Liberty of Conscience, to increase the number of Dissenters, and yet continued the Sacramental Test, to keep them out of Employment, whereas they should have incorporated them; They Abdicated a King, and call none of his Ministers to Account, but employ many of them; They virtually allow the Power of the People over Kings, and yet send out a Proclamation against Ludlow, &c. Thus much for the Convention: Now for K. William.

He is avaritious of our Money, and as lavish in laying it out, and lets the Trade of England sink; He is fond of an Army, which is the pre-natural Force of England, and suffers Dilapidations in its Naval Walls; His beloved Favourites are but little belov'd by the People; He is so far from being (as English-men like) Popular and Debonair in his Carriage, that he is Sower, Silent, Sullen, and almost Insolent; to be sure Unmannerly, for there is a Decorum even due from Kings; He places all his Hopes in Foreign Troops and Foreign Confederacies; instead of courting the People, putting the Subjects of this Island into the Ballance of his Affairs, and trusting to their Strength; He shews too grossly his love of Arbitrary Power, though he was bred in a Commonwealth, and though the Kings of Great Britain are the Head of a Democracy, and though he is King upon an Elective bottom; He is so mean, as to crouch to his Enemies every where, and forsakes his first and fastest Friends; Trever the Keeper of his Conscience, Pembroke of his Privy-Seals, and Nottingham of his Secrets; my Lord Faulkland the Director of his Fleet, Rochester and Seymour in his Council, Ranelagh Pay-Master of his Army, and in his Privy-Council too, Blathwaye Secretary of War, &c. and very many others of the Regency-Men in good Places. The Lieutenantcy of London, and the Officers of the Militia all over England, are instances how he courts his Enemies, Cornbury, old Maynard, Halifax, Delamere, Shrewsbury, Torrington, Marlborough, Wildman, Manley, Jack How, and others, are Examples how he values those that have faithfully served him. His slighting the Whigs, whose Religious and State-Conscience suits best with his Title, is such a Solæcism in Politicks, as was never before committed by any Man in his Wits; and to slight them in Sea service, whilst Wapping produceth the Sea-men, is next to Madness. And 'tis as mad to expect an Army to fight for him, which he hath paid no better than he does the Sea-men and his Servants, or the Transport-Ships. Sure England will be weary of such Confederate-Disbursements, when of all we give so little is bestow'd on our Fellow-Subjects, or returns into English Coffers: We can never maintain all the hungry Princes abroad, that will take his promis'd Annuities; nor can those that he expects should serve him here, do it without Pay.

As to the present Parliament, it is as well Pension'd as Officer'd; and as soon as a Patriot, or Tribune of the People ariseth, he is ask'd his Price. They have chose a ~~Speaker~~ Speaker, who once had good regards for King JAMES; They give away our Money, without asking how; What was formerly given has been laid out; and in such plenty too, that they did not well know where to raise it; and at last raise it upon such Funds, as will at length make us feel the weight of Taxes. And they forget to make one Popular Act, to make us amends for all our Expence

of Blood and Treasure. They saw no faults in our Administration, and thereby are thought by many honest English-men (who are no Jacobites) the Reproach, rather than the Representatives of our Countrey, In this Parliament the very Whigs threw out the Bill for Trials in Cases of High-Treason, and have thereby demonstrated, That for the pleasure of hanging a few engaged in King JAMES's Quarrel now, they are contented to be themselves, and have all their Posterity hang'd hereafter. And whereas they on all occasions pretend to quarrel with the Lords, they shew they have never consider'd the true Ballance of our Constitution; for we are much too weak in the Aristocratical Part; and had not Monmouth appear'd, and since the Prince of Orange, as much as we stood in need of Rebellion, we should have known how to have Headed it.

As for King JAMES, he committed many Errors, but neither enough, nor great enough to warrant such usage, though the Notion of an Original Contract was granted; therefore less could his Errors excuse such usage from a Church that owns more Despotick Doctrines: Thus the Justice of Providence is engag'd for Him, and all Parties are disappointed, and will be more and more so, the more he sees and repents his former Errors. I must confess, I think him a just Man, that design'd the General Good of England; yet I think he was grossly misled, and I am no Advocate for the Male-Administrations of his Reign, in which I thank God I had nothing to do. I think there were Invasions made upon our Liberties and Property, and Attempts upon our Religion; yet he could by our Laws, do no wrong in his own Person; and I think the Nation may so restore him, as to secure all those good things to us better under Him than any other way. A King who has but a small Faction is the safest King: But our whole Constitution is in danger, whenever we part with the Royal Line. An Insurrection might have been justified according to my Principles: The refusal of the Army to fight against our Liberties and Religion, would have been honourable: but the invitation of a Foreign Prince, and a defection from our Natural One to joyn him, was too dangerous an Experiment.

And yet there may be ways still found out to redress and recover all, without those dreadful hazards with which some fright themselves and others; nor needs the French King be an Obstacle, who can even head and maintain a Republican Faction in Holland. But these methods are not fit to be set down in writing; the misfortunes of King JAMES must make him wise enough to comply with them; at least, these Kingdoms may force him into his own and their Interest, or make the whole quarrel just against him. I will not enlarge, though I think I can demonstrate very clearly the Inconsistency and Instability of this Government; its contradictions, defects, and want of Conduct, and draw a Plane of our Miseries, of the decay of our Trade, the loss of our Shipping, the little likelihood of any success against France either by Sea or Land, answerable to our exigencies: the inbred Diseases of our Government, and the prospect of Affairs abroad, which God knows will represent

us a languishing State, though not so Conquerable as \* sanguine Jacobites and silly Catholics prattle about: And in a word, I think, without believing Miracles, I may prophesie Desolation to England, if King JAMES is not suddenly Restored upon the Foot of the People.

\* Though there are men that do think and wish Mobbishly in all Parties, yet the Author of these Remarks does not design to accuse any considerable number of the Protestant Jacobites, or Roman Catholics of any inclination to Conquest. The People have no juster ground to fear Conquest from the Papists than they had in the beginning of the Revolution to fear St. Jones's Gridirons.





All Edinburgh the 15<sup>th</sup> of March this present 1703<sup>3</sup> There was a  
 Procession by order of Privy Council from the Low Council House after  
 this manner. One of the Towne Officers carrye on the top of his Gallbert  
 the Picture of our Blessed Saviour on the Cross in Pallie-douce and  
 after him came the Hangman & his man dressed in Devils Habits or  
 Votments with Crucifixes on their forehead, and all the rest of the  
 Towne Officers carryed every one of them something. In this manner they  
 came to the Market Cross, in presence of all the Market People the  
 Hangman burnt our Saviours Picture, the vulgar Latin Bible, the Devils  
 Votments, the Crucifixes, the consecrated Wafers, & the Chalice or Communion  
 Cups they did beat the sides of it together, & throw it in the fire, & after it had  
 been sometime in the fire they took it out again being Silver, & presented  
 they would give that to the poor.



Gridrons, the poor Irish, &c. The Author knows they who will, by their Quality, their Estates, and their Sense, govern the rest, are far from such a wish: and I am confident, as much as a Paper call'd *Just Weights and Measures* has offended and gall'd some warm people, that very Author has desir'd to serve all Mankind when in Distress; and that many of the *Roman Catholics* themselves have experienced his universal Charity: and it would be very strange if the Wise and Good Men of any Party should be much concern'd that the Knaves and Fools that herd themselves under their denominations are a little expos'd, when it is in order only to reform them. However, it would be of great use, if the *Church of England-Jacobites* would every where declare they are for Liberty of Conscience safely and circumspectly settled, and that they have a due regard to the Liberties of *England*. It would do well likewise, if the *Roman Catholics* would make as publick Declarations against Conquest; for such Letters as were taken in a Cane justly alarm'd many that are as sincerely for the King's Restoration as the Author of that Letter could be: and in the ill-natur'd Age wherein we live, one such Letter makes more impression than can be suddenly raz'd out of the minds of the People; and it is necessary to let the World know there are Men serve the King upon larger and more *English* Notions than that Letter bespeaks the Author of it to have. I would not have been provok'd to have mentioned any thing so particularly, but that the story is notoriously known, and the sense of that Letter as much decry'd by all Men of Worth of all Parties and Religions. And here I must do the Gentleman (who has by some been said to have writ it) the Justice to acquaint the World, that he has to me positively denied it either to be his Letter or his Sense. To conclude, I thank God I love all Mankind, let their Opinions in Religion be what they will; and I wish they would believe *Solomon*, Prov. ch. 27. ver. 5, and part of 6.

5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.  
 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend.

Add to this, That if we had no previous dispositions to them, this late quarrel between the two Courts gives a natural rise to strong Factions; and that the great Exportation of our Coyn, which will be absolutely necessary for the maintenance of our Armies abroad, will plainly and infallibly (if the War continues) prey upon the Vitals, and consume the radical moisture of our Body-Politick. And it's a shame to our Intellectuals, as well as a National Loss, that it should be notoriously known (if we may credit both Officers and Soldiers who have been in those parts) That the *Dutch* publicly in their Shops clip all our Broad Money, and yet will receive no *English* Money but by weight, tho' our *English* Army are forced to take for their Pay the Money they thus clip. And over and above all this, they allow but 18 s. for a Guinea, which the *Fews* buy there, and return hither at 1 l. 1 s. 8 d. apiece. What Bubbles are we made? Sure, after all this, we ought not to laugh at the *Irish* for want of understanding; as unfortunate as they are, they have not been so instrumental towards the making themselves so.

But that which is the most fatal Symptom, our worst Prognostick, is, That all the several sorts of people who are Friends to this Government, have out-liv'd, and bare-fac'dly contradict their former Opinions. Thus Sir *Robert Rich*, to be one of the Lords of the Admiralty, can take the Sacrament in the Church of *England*, tho' even since this Revolution he has often in the most positive terms declared against it; All the complying Members of the Church of *England* that write for this, are forc'd to start new Notions of Government; and those who had the clearest Understanding, and the nicest sense of Liberty, learn now to serve Turns, advise by occasion, and little Accidents, and not by such lasting Methods as will be too hard for Arbitrary Ministers in all times.

\* The *Habeas Corpus* was first suspended upon some *Score* Letters being produc'd in Parliament, which after it was suspended were never heard of more, and were very probably a Sham at first. *Fuller's* Plot has made many Members against the Bill for Trials in Cafes of High-Treason, tho' I believe it was not the reason why *K. William* solicited in the House of Lords against it: A method we us'd to cry out upon with a witness.

Who can the People of *England* e're again confide in, when Mr. *Edward Clarke* and Mr. *John Freat*, the one within the Parliament-walls, the other in Coffee-houses, a little too scandalously labour'd against the Bill for Trials in Cafes of High-Treason? Men in whose hands I would not only have deposited all that is dear to me in my private Concerns, but also, what I thank God is dearer to me than all I have, my Life and Posterity too, I mean *England's* Interest. I do not suggest that Mr. *Freat* built'd against that Bill, because it was not of his proposing, nor that Mr. *Solicitor Sommers* oppos'd it because he very odly thought it, even in a House of Commons, the duty of his Place to Harangue for Prerogative. I would not be too severe upon them; I still value these Gentlemen, for God knows, after all, they are of the best sort of *English* men that now meddle with Affairs; and therefore likewise I will not now lash them with *Fuller's* Plot, since I dare say They, and all Mankind who have any sense of Reputation, are aham'd they made it a reason at this time for being against that Bill. But I beseech them all, and especially *Fack Freat*, to see for the future that they need not be at any pains to obstruct any Bill that is of a generous and publick Nature, that will proclaim our Constitution happy, or would better secure us, and those that shall come after us; for it is plain to him and every body if they are not wilfully blind, by *K. William's* denial to pass the Bill that related to the Judges, that the P. of O. never design'd to protect our Liberties or our Lives from any future Possessor of the Throne. That Bill was so small a Retribution for what we have given him, that methinks it should make us consider, whether we can't have a better King at a cheaper Rate. Methinks the next sessions should do the Nations business before they provide his Travelling-charges. But God knows, I fear, we must be miserable before we are wise; for every body is so abandon'd, that in this Reign men can conserve the good Opinion of the People, tho' they prostitute their Liberties to the Will & Pleasure of a Prince; and we seem to have so little inclination for Liberty, that Providence cannot bestow it upon us without a series of wonders. We are gazing at very little Accidents, carried away with Personal and Party Aversions, by false Hopes, and as foolish Fears; and therefore I say again, it will cost Providence many astonishing Miracles, to bring about such a Nation's Deliverance: A Nation that will do nothing for it self, and that is so unprepar'd to receive good things, tho' they were offer'd. Yet after all this, I would not despair of my Country's Safety, if I could find but Ten Men that would hear what might be said, and that had the undoubted and unbiazt Integrity of *Fack Fansham*; a Man that misliked all that was ill in former Reigns, &c takes no pains to support the Knaves of *this*, and that can be only tax'd with an unactive Despondency; and since he is so nicely coy of *Jacobites*, it is no wonder if he falls into that Error: for according to the common Views which He, and the wisest Men that are shie can have, we are not under a possibility of Salvation; I almost despair of it my self, unless I could see such Spirits exert themselves, and examine things. We must be sav'd (if we are at all) by Men who love their Country, and will be believ'd by it; by Men who think it not worth their while to pull down the Church of *England*, but will be for Liberty of Conscience, and jealous of the Liberties of their Country: They must be Men of a large size, Latitudinarian Politicians; Men that are above Forms, both in Religion and Government; that are for the Ends, not the Names of things; Men that can be content with Hereditary Monarchy, so that the Common Good be pursu'd; and care not what Garments the Clergy wear, upon condition they meddle not with the State, but Preach good Morality, and Live better. Neither the *Huzzaing Tories*, *Whigs* of *Singy* Principles, nor *Visionary Papists* can adjust our National Differences and Disputes.