

The Petition of *Elianor James* to the
MARCH 21.
1702.
LORDS Spiritual and Temporal
Assembled in PARLIAMENT.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner has alwas been an Innocent Woman ; and not guilty of any of those Vile Things *Oates* asperfes her with ; but has always been Zealous for the Peace and Welfare of Church and State, without being encouraged thereunto by the hopes of Gain , or to please any Person ; but purely for the Love of God, and the good of her Country. And as for King *Charles II.* I loved him with a Suparlativ Love ; and all my Desires to him were ; That he would break off those Vices which chain'd that Great Prince: To this end it was I made continual Application to him ; and his Clemency in hearing me ; caus'd me to hope that he would be so happy as to break through those Clouds, and shine forth in Vertue : He did often condescend to promise that he would do those things which would make him truly happy ; but he delayed too long. And as I was to admonish that Great Prince against the Sin of the Flesh ; so God prepared me for it by giving me such Innocence, that I never had so much as an unchaste Desire towards King *Charles* or any other Man : And since God has given me such Innocence, why should I be belyed by *Oates*, or any body else. And it is very Uncharitable to bely the Dead ; as *Oates* does in continually scandalizing King *Charles II.* and he is so wicked as to speak evil of the Word of God ; which makes me not endure to see him in a Canonical Habit. And Tuesday last meeting *Oates* in the Court of *Request*, I said to him, What do you do with the Robes of the Church, when you know your self to be an *Anabaptist*? To which he replyed, laughing, Ah good Woman. And I was pleas'd to see him so good humour'd, but little thought of the wickedness of his Heart, for on a sudden he struck me over the Head with his Cane with that Violence as if he would split my Brains, and he would have struck me again had not some Gentlemen that stood by prevented him. I humbly entreat Your Lordships for the Love of God, and the Honour of Religion, (to which he is a Scandal) to forbid him wearing the Gown, and order his Cane to be burnt, that it may be no more an Instrument of Mischief. And it is in Your Lordships Power to lessen his Pension, and 'tis pity he should have 300*l. per Annum.* if part of that was given to poor Ministers Widows, it would glorify God, and bring a Blessing upon Your Lordships. Let not Your Lordships fear that B—st O— for he shall Plot no more. Indeed, he was made an Instrument to discover the Popish-plot, and had he kept to Truth, he might have done some service ; but telling Lies that the King knew to be such ; made him not believe what might be true ; and so thought his Brother was injured and the Roman-Catholicks ; and that made the King let the Reins of Government more to his Brother than otherwise he would have done : Which gave the Duke great opportunities for promoting his own Cause, which was the King's Ruin, and his own too : So *Oates* was an Instrument to carry the Plot on under a pretence of preventing it. And this is he whom some has Idoliz'd as a Saviour of the Nation !

I am sure there's not any one can lay an ill thing to my charge ; for when I had the Ear of King *Charles II.* I did not use the King's Favour to the injury of any Person ; but when any one desired me to do them any Good, I was as ready to do it as they to desire it ; and the King was so gracious that he never failed them, whom I entreated him for. And 'tis the whole desire of my Soul that the whole Kingdom may be Happy, and that God's Judgments may be averted ; for which reason it is that I would not have Dissenters come into Government. I would have all have liberty to serve God, but under that pretence I would not have the Devil's Kingdom promoted.

That the Lord may give Your Lordships Wisdom to overcome the subtilty of the Serpent, that you may be happy here and hereafter, shall ever be the Prayer of Your Lordships humble Servant and Souls well-wisher.

ELIANOR JAMES.

