

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty, ( James VII. )

THE HUMBLE

128

# ADDRESS

Of the Citizens and Inhabitants that are of the Presbyterian  
Perswasion in the City of Edinburgh and Canongate.

*May it please Your Most Sacred Majesty,*

**W**E cannot find suitable Expressions to evidence our most humble and grateful Acknowledgments for Your Majesties late Gracious Declaration, by which we are happily delivered of many sad and grievous Burthens we have long groaned under; and (all Restraints, to our great Joy, being taken off) are allow'd the free and peaceable publick Exercise of our Religion, a Mercy which is dearer to us than our Lives and Fortunes.

Could we open our Hearts, Your Majesty would undoubtedly see what deep Sense and true Zeal for Your Service, so surprizing and signal a Favour hath imprinted on our Spirits; for which, we reckon our selves highly obliged (throwing our selves at Your Majesties Feet) to return Your most Excellent Majesty our most humble, dutiful and Hearty Thanks: And we desire humbly to assure Your Majesty, That as the Principles of the Protestant Religion, which according to our Confession of Faith we profess, obligeth us all the days of our Lives to that intire Loyalty and Duty to Your Majesties Person and Government, that no difference of Religion can dissolve; so we hope, and through God's Assistance, shall still endeavour to demean our selves in our practice, in such manner, as shall evidence to the World the Truth and Sincerity of our Loyalty and Gratitude, and make it appear, that there is no inconsistency betwixt true Loyalty and Presbyterian Principles.

*Great SIR! We humbly offer our Dutiful and Faithful Assurances, that as we have not been hitherto wanting in that great Duty, which our Consciences bind upon us to*

*pray*



pray for Your Majesty; so this late refreshing and unexpected Favour will much more engage us in great Sincerity, to continue still to offer up our desires to the God of Heaven, by whom Kings Reign, and Princes decree Justice, to Bless Your Royal Majesties Person and Government; and after a happy and comfortable Reign on Earth, to Crown You with an incorruptible Crown of Glory in Heaven; which is most ardently prayed for, by,

Most Dread Sovereign,

Your Majesty's most Humble, most Loyal, most Dutiful, and most obedient Subjects,

Subscribed in our Names, and by order of the Citizens and Inhabitants of the Presbyterian Per/wasion within Your City of Edinburgh and Canongate.

E. D. I. N. B. U. R. G. H. Printed June 7, 1703, from the Copy, Printed by the Heir of Andrew Anderson, Printer to His most Sacred Majesty, City and Collége, 1687.

### Some few Remarks.

W<sup>h</sup>ether the Addressers were sincere or no, I cannot determine; But I'm sure, Whoever reads them, cannot think but the Addressers were the greatest *Jacobites* in the world: even so great, that the King could not possibly see what a deep sense and true zeal they had for his service, &c.

I'd gladly know; what became of all these specious Principles, when they forsook King James, even before the Throne was declared *Vacant*, or the then Prince of Orange, King? And since no difference of Religion could dissolve their Duty and Loyalty, all the days of their Lives. (Here's no reserve, unless Jesuitical or Mental) And that through God's blessing they should still adhere to the same Principles, till they were all dead.

To speak moderately, Was it not for going over the Belly of Law, and declaring His **ABSOLUTE POWER**? They gratefully acknowledged their being delivered of many sad and grievous Burdens, &c. I know no Burdens they groaned under, upon account of the King's Authority, which they had formerly acknowledged, and which they still offered a little in the Government, which does not so much concern the Laicks, was it a sad or grievous Burden for them to join with, or live quietly and peaceably under *Episcopal Protestantism*? Indeed, a great many who called themselves *Presbyterians*, were fined, imprisoned, banished and executed, &c. But, for what were they so treated? Never one of them was punished for being *Presbyterian*, but for disobeying the Laws of GOD and Man, of Nature and Nations, and particularly the Laws, and Acts of Parliament of this Kingdom: Were they not punished for the Sins and Crimes of Treason, Rebellion, Plotting, Sedition, Murder, Assassination, Robbery, Insurrection, refusing *Caesar* his due, and excommunicating Him, with many other things committed under pretence of *Presbytery*, or serving of God & His Church, when as they were a Reprobate to Christianity? But passing these: Was not *Episcopacy*, then, legally establish'd? and every whit as well secured by Law, then, as *Presbytery* is now? Yet King James, in this Toleratation, which they so gratefully received, Declar'd, That, By His *Sovereign Authority, Prerogative Royal, and ABSOLUTE POWER, He did suspend, and disable all Laws, to all intents and purposes, made against ANY Non-conformists*. Was not this Declaration in Favours of *Non-conformists*, pretty illegal? when the King, by His own *Absolute Authority*, suspended Acts which had the Royal Assent in Parliament? And were not the *Presbyterians* very fine men, in Thanking the King for such an illegal thing? As in Logick, whoever acknowledges the Conclusion, must assent to the Premises, whence it flow'd: even so, the *Presbyterians*, (as well as the *Papists*) taking the benefit of this Toleratation, not only without, but even contrary to direct and standing Laws, must acknowledge the Fountain whence it flow'd, to wit, **ABSOLUTE POWER**, which are the express words of King James's Toleratation. The only Apology I can make for them, is, *Tempora mutantur, ----- Or, Qui color albus erat, nunc est contrarius albo.*