

Sir John Packington's
S P E E C H
I N T H E
House of COMMONS
R E L A T I N G
To the Harbour of Dunkirk.

TH E Duty I ow to my Sovereign and Country, makes me bold to crave your Patience to hear me. The Matter that I shall speak of is Twofold, The First concerneth the Honour of the Queen; the Second the Safety of my Country; two very high Points for me to handle, and require a more Eloquent Discourse than I am able to make: I have been of the Parliament Five or Six times, and have always observ'd, that all the Wars of Her Majesty are Wars Offensive, How then happens it such a Number of our Ships are Spoil'd, Robb'd, and some of them taken, the Men Rack'd, carried away, Imprison'd, Ransom'd, and some Starv'd; and for these Ten Years, the Subjects of this Land on the Sea-Coast, have undergone these Hardships, and all this and much more from that Nest of Thieves *DUNKIRK*, which at first began only with two Ships, but now increas'd almost to a numberless Number.

They can be at Home at Supper, and the next Day with us. I must needs confess there has been great Care and Pains used by the Lord High Admiral, with as great Charge and Expences, to curb their Insolency, by sending out Ships to keep them in, and taking many of them when they are out. But as soon as our Ships return Home, they are here in an Instant again: I dare boldly say, they have done *England* more Hurt since the War began, than all *France* besides; and if it be so, that this pernicious Garrison doth so often confront the Power of this Land, I see no Reason why they should be suffer'd; for it is a great Dishonour both to the Queen and to the Country. I have heard many say, that the Navies are the Walls of the Kingdom; but by this very Fortrefs are our Ships still taken, some Destroy'd, some Burnt, and some Sunk; so that we may compare our Seamen to a Flock of Sheep, feeding upon a fair Mountain, in the midst of which stands a little Grove full of Wolves.

Mr. Speaker, We are so plagu'd with them, that they are become so bold, as now and then to take our Harvest-Men with Ambuscades. I speak this with Grief; and therefore my humble Motion is, That it would please this House to enter into a serious Consideration of these Things for the Honour and Safety of both our Queen and Country.

