

A
Lenten Prologue

Refus'd by the

PLAYERS.

OUR Prologue-Wit grows flat: the Nap's worn off;
And howsoe're We turn, and trim the Stuff,
The Gloss is gone, that look'd at first so gaudy;
'Tis now no Jest to hear young Girls talk Baudy.
But Plots, and Parties give new matter birth;
And State Distractions serve you here for mirth!
At *England's* cost Poets now purchase Fame }
While factious Heats destroy us, without Shame }
These wanton Neroes fiddle to the Flame.
The Stage, like old Rump-Pulpits, is become
The Scene of News, a furious Party's Drum.
Here Poets beat their brains for Volunteers,
And take fast hold of Asses by their Ears.
Their jingling Rhime for Reason here you swallow;
Like *Orpheus* Musick it makes Beasts to follow.
What an enlightning Grace is want of Bread?
How it can change a Libeller's Heart, and clear a *Laureat's* Head!
Open his eyes till the mad Prophet see Medal
Plots working in a future power to be P. 14
Traitors unform'd to his *Second Sight* are clear; }
And Squadrons here, and Squadrons there appear; }
Rebellion is the *Burden* of the *Secr.* }
To Bayes in Vision were of late reveal'd
Whigg-Armies, that at Knights-bridge lay conceal'd. (Rehearsal
And though no mortal eye could see't before Com. p. 31.
The Battaile was just entring at the Door! (Rehearsally Comedy
A dangerous *Association* — sign'd by None! p. 52
The Joyner's Plot to seize the King alone!
Stephen with *Colledge* made this Dire compact; }
The watchful *Irish* took 'em in the Fact — }
Of riding arm'd! Oh Traiterous *Overt Act!* }
With each of 'em an ancient Pistol sided;
Against the Statute in that Case provided.
But why was such an Host of Swearers prest?
Their succour was ill Husbandry at best.
Bayes's crown'd Muse, by Sovereign Right of Satyre,
Without desert, can dubb a man a Traitor.
And Toryes, without troubling Law, or Reason,
By loyal Instinct can find Plots and Treason.
But here's our Comfort, though they never scan
The merits of the Cause, but of the Man,
Our gracious Statesmen vow not to forsake
Law — that is made by Judges whom they Make;

Be-

