

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority

From **Sunday** September 5. to **Thursday** September 8. 1681.

Edenburgh, August 30.

Yesterday, about Nine in the Morning, the Parliament Met, and fell upon the Act for Securing the Protestant Religion against Popery and Fanaticism, which being Debated in several Paragraphs, took up the House till Six in the Evening, when the Act was pass. In the beginning of the Debate, the Lord Belhaven having mov'd, That though this Act did abundantly secure the Protestant Religion against Popery and Fanaticism, yet there was no Provision made against a Popish or Fanatic Successor, or to that purpose, above three parts of four of the House, rose from their Seats and cried, To the Castle, to the Castle; Then the Lord Belhaven being required to explain himself, said, He meant what might happen 100 Years hence: But that not giving the House satisfaction, after consideration had of the words by him spoken, which were thought unreasonable by the Act concerning the Succession, whereby it is declared, That no difference of Religion, no Law or Statute can alter the Right of Succession, the Lord of Belhaven was by a Vote of the House, very few dissenting; sent Prisoner to the Castle, whither he was carried in the Earl Marshal's Coach, under a Guard of Horse and Foot. At the same time the Kings Advocate declared in Parliament, that he would bring an Impeachment of high Treason against him. The Act is as follows.

An Act for Securing the Protestant Religion, against Popery and Fanaticism, Edenburgh, August 29. 1681.

Our Sovereign Lord, with His Estates of Parliament, considering, That albeit by many Good and Wholesome Laws made by his Royal Grand-Father, and Father, of Glorious Memory, and by Himself in this and his other Parliaments since his happy Restauration, the Protestant Religion is carefully Affected, Established, and Secured against Popery and Fanaticism; yet the restless Adversaries of our Religion, do not cease to propagate their Errors, and to seduce His Majesties Subjects from their Duty to God, and Loyalty to his Vice-gerent, and to Overturn the Established Religion, by introducing their Superstitions and Delusions into this Church and Kingdom; And knowing that nothing can more encrease the Numbers and Confidences of Papists and Schismatical Dissenters from the Established Church, than the supine Neglect of putting in Execution the good Laws provided against them, together with their hopes to insinuate themselves into Offices and Places of Trust, and Publick Employment; Therefore His Majesty from his Princely and Pious Zeal, to maintain and preserve the true Protestant Religion contained in the Confession of Faith, Recorded in the First Parliament of King James the Sixth, which is Founded on, and agreeable to the written Word of God; Doth wish

Advice and Consent of his Estates of Parliament, Require and Command all his Officers, Judges, and Magistrates, to put the Laws made against Popery and Papists, Priests, Jesuits, and all Persons of any other Order in the Popish Church, especially against Sayers and Hearers of Mass, Venders and Dispensers of forbidden Books, and Resettlers of Popish Priests and Excommunicated Papists: As also against all Fanatic Separatists from this National Church, against Preachers at House or Field Conventicles, and the Resettlers and Harbourers of Preachers, who are Intercommuniced, against disorderly Baptismes and Marriages, and irregular Ordinations and all other Schismatical Disorders, to full and vigorous Execution, according to the Tenour of the respective Acts of Parliament thereunto provided. And that His Majesties Princely Care, to have these Laws put in Execution against those Enemies of the Protestant Religion, may the more effectually appear, He doth with Advice and Consent foresaid, Statute and Ordain that the Ministers of each Paroch, give up once in October Yearly, to their respective Ordinaries, true and complete Lists of all Papists and Schismatical withdrawers from the Publick Worship in their respective Paroches, which Lists are to be Subscribed by them; and that the Bishops give in a Double of the said Lists, subscribed by them, to the respective Sheriffs, Stewards, Bailiffs of Royalties and Regalities, and Magistrates of Burroughs, to the effect the said Judges may proceed against them according to Law: As also the Sheriffs and other Magistrates foresaid, are hereby Ordained to give an Account to His Majesties Privy Council in December Yearly, of their proceedings against those Papists and Fanatic Separatists, as they will be answerable at their highest Peril; and that the Diligences done by the Sheriffs, Bailiffs of Regalities, and other Magistrates foresaid, may be the better acquired into by the Council, the Bishops of the respective Diocesses, are to send exact Doubles of the Lists of the Papists and Fanatics to the Clerks of the Privy Council, whereby the diligence of the Sheriffs and other Judges foresaid, may be Controlled and Examined. And to cut off all hopes from Papists and Fanatics, of their being employed in Offices and Places of publick Trust, It is hereby Statute and Ordained, that the following Oath shall be taken by all Persons in Offices of Publick Trust, Civil, Ecclesiastical and Military, especially by all Members of Parliament, and Electors of Members of Parliament, all Privy Counsellors, Lords of Session, Members of the Exchequer, Lords of Justiciary, and all other Members of these Courts, all Officers of the Crown and State, all Arch-Bishops and Bishops, and all Preachers and Ministers of the Gospel whatsoever, all Persons of this Kingdom named, or to be named Commissioners for the Borders, all Members of the Communion for Church Affairs, all Sheriffs, Stewards, Bailiffs of Royalties and Regalities, Justices of Peace, Officers of the Mint, Commissars and their Deputes, their Clerks and Ricars, all Advocates and Procurators, before any of these Courts, all Writers to the Signet, all Publick Notaries, and other Persons employed in Writing