

lik' o'ber Crimes, which never us'd to be comprehended in Our general Acts of Indemnity. And We Command and Require all Our Judges, or others concerned, to Explain this in the most Ample Sense and Meaning Acts of Indemnity at any time have contained: Declaring this shall be as good to every one concerned, as if they had Our Royal Pardon and Remission under Our Great Seal of that Kingdom. And likewise Indemnifying Our Protestant Subjects from all Pains and Penalties due for Hearing or Preaching in Houses; Providing there be no Treasonable Speeches uttered in the said Conventicles by them, in which Case the Law is only to take place against the Guilty, and none other present: Providing also that they Reveal to any of Our Council the Guilt so Committed; As also, Excepting all Fines or Effects of Sentences already given; And likewise Indemnifying fully and freely all Quakers, for their Meetings and Worship, in all time past, preceeding the Publication of these Presents; And We doubt not but Our Protestant Subjects will give their Assistance and Concourse hereunto, on all Occasions; in their respective Capacities: In consideration whereof, and the Ease those of Our Religion, and others may have hereby, and for the Encouragement of Our Protestant-Bishops, and the Regular Clergy, and such as have hitherto lived orderly, We think fit to Declare, that it never was Our Principle, nor will We ever suffer Violence to be offered to any Mans Conscience, nor will We use Force, or Inevincible Necessity against any Man on the account of his Perswasion, nor the Protestant Religion, but will Protect Our Bishops and other Ministers in their Functions, Rights and Properties, and all Our Protestant Subjects in the free Exercise of their Protestant Religion in the Churches; And that We Will, and hereby Promise, on Our Royal Word, to Maintain, the Possessors of Church-Lands formerly belonging to Abbays, or other Churches of the Catholick Religion, in their full and free Possession and Right, according to Our Laws and Acts of Parliament in that behalf in all time coming; And We will Employ indifferently all Our Subjects, of all Perswasions, so as none shall meet with any Discouragement on the account of his Religion, but be Advanced, and Esteemed by Us, according to their several Capacities and Qualifications, so long as We find Charity and Unity Maintained: And if any Animosities shall Arise, as We hope in God there will not, We will shew the surest Effects of Our Royal Displeasure against the Beginners or Fomenters thereof, seeing thereby Our Subjects may be Deprived of this general Ease and Satisfaction, We intend to all of them, whose Happiness, Prosperity, Wealth and Safety, is so much Our Royal Care, that We will leave nothing undone which may procure these Blessings for them. And lastly, To the End all Our Good Subjects may have Notice of this Our Royal Will and Pleasure, We do hereby Command, Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren, Heralds, Maces, Pursuivants and Messengers at Arms, to make timely Proclamation thereof at the Mercat-Cross of Edinburgh; And besides the Printing and Publishing of this Our Royal Proclamation, it is Our express Will and Pleasure, that the same be first under the Great Seal of that Our Kingdom per saltum, without passing any other Seal or Register: In Order whereunto, this shall be to the Directors of Our Chancery, and their Deputies for Writing the same, and to Our Chancellor for causing Our Great Seal aforesaid to be Appended thereunto, a sufficient Warrant.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Twelfth day of February 1685. And of Our Reign the Third Year.

By His Majesties Command,  
MELFORT.

## The Answer of the Lords of the Council to His Majesties Letter,

May it please Your Most Sacred Majesty,

YOUR Majesties Commands are Exactly Obedy; Your Royal Proclamation is Printed and Published, by which Your Majesty hath given a farther Evidence of Your Favor and Goodness to all Your Subjects. And we are hopeful, that by Your Majesties extraordinary Acts of Mercy to some who have been too ready on many Occasions to abuse the Clemency of Your Royal Predecessors, they will be at last convinced what they owe to so Gracious a King; And if any shall be still so obstinate as to make any wrong Use of Your Majesties Goodness, We do Unanimously assure Your Majesty, That we will maintain and assert Your Royal Preogatives and Authority with the hazard of our Lives and Fortunes; And all of us shall in our several Capacities do our Utmost, that Your Government may be easie to all whom Your Majesty thinks worthy of Your Protection.

We are very willing that Your Majesties Subjects who are Peaceable and Loyal, may be at Ease and Security, notwithstanding of their Profession and Private Worship, and do conceive that such of them as are or shall be employed by Your Majesty in Offices of Trust Civil or Military, are sufficiently secured by Your Majesties Authority and Commission for their exercising the same.

We return Your Majesty our most humble Thanks for giving Us Your Royal Word for maintaining the Church and our Religion as it is now Established by Law, and rest satisfied; believing Your Majesties Promise to be the best and greatest Security we can have. We are;

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesties most Humble, most Faithful;

And most Obedient Subjects and Servants.

Edinburgh, 24.  
Febr. 1685.

Signed by

The Earl of Perth Lord High Chancellor, the Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, the Lord Archbishop of Glasgow Elect, the Lord Marquis of Atholl Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Duke of Gordon, the Lord Marquis of Douglas, the Earl of Linlithgow, the Earl of Dumfries, the Earl of Strathmore, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Southesk, the Earl of Traquair, the Earl of Ardis, the Earl of Belcarres, the Lord Viscount of Tarbat, the Lord Viscount of Strathallan, the Lord Livingstone, the Lord Kinaird, Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath Lord President of the Session, Sir John Dalrymple younger of Stair Lord Advocate, Sir James Foulis of Colinton Lord Justice Clerk, Sir John Lockhart of Castlehill one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Lieutenant General James Douglas, Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, Major General John Graham of Claverhouse, and Andrew Wauchope of Nidry.

And His Majesties said Privy Council having Ordered, That the said Letter should afterwards be Signed by such of the Councillors as were not then present; It was accordingly Signed at Westminster by the Earl of Morray, and the Earl of Melfort, Principal Secretaries of State for the said Kingdom; the Earl of Argyll, the Earl of Drumlanrig, the Earl of Winton, the Earl of Sutherland, the Earl of Argyll, and the Earl of Dunbar.

Rmt.