

my Mother and Mistriſs a ſufficient introduction to our greater miſeries) and baniſhed from this Court the moſt conſiderable perſons, conſining them to remote and ill places; where their ſufferings have been but too eminently known. But the greateſt miſchief was that by this means they deprived us of the Remedy, which the Queen would have uſed, and probably might have been effectual of removing the evils which we groaned under, by adviſing the King to choſe Expedients which his Inclinations called for; and by ſettling ſuch Servants about him, as his years required: But quite contrary, the King was encompassed and attended by perſons of a bad life, pickt and gleaned out of the whole Kingdom, to whom were given large Penſions and Rewards for their Practices, to the great prejudice of the Conſcience, Authority, and Reputation of the King, Diſturbance of the Court, and Scandal of the whole World. Since this time, our Diſorders grew up to as great an height, as was then the Reputation of thoſe men, who taking from his Maſteſty all Actions of his Own, made themſelves absolute Maſters of his Will, and of every thing beſides; keeping the Seals under which all diſpatches uſed to paſs, in their Own power, prevailing with his Maſteſty, that whoſoever ſpoke to him, to their diſadvantage, ſhould be ſo ill treated, that none ſhould for the future dare to attempt it, not excepting from this Rule my ſelf or (which is more) the Queen my Miſtriſs; they ſo lively imprinted in the Kings mind, the Cuſtom of all among his Subjects, that without reſpect had to their perſons, though of Greateſt quality, or to their merits, they have received ſuch entertainment, as we have too often beheld with conſuſion. 'Tis ſufficiently known that the Queen my Miſtriſs and my ſelf, deſired theſe Grievances might be redreſſed, and that was reaſon enough why we ſhould be ſo ill handled, as that when I complain'd of the danger I was in, to have my life taken away by poiſon, my complaint could be neither credited nor heard, as it ought to have been, had it been made by any private Perſon, and the Royal Perſon of the Queen my Miſtriſs, was uſed with ſo little Reſpect, that my ſelf, the Nobility, and other Perſons of this Court, we e obliged to appear for her with much Treat and Earneſtneſs: But neither yet did the Queen find any ſatisfaction; She, and moſt of us receiving great affronts, which we endured with much patience: But to remove out of the Queens ſight, the principal object of her diſpleaſure, it was neceſſary, induſtriouſly to discredit him with the People: The Miniſter I complain'd of (at laſt) retired from this Court, much againſt His Maſteſties will; but though he promiſed to leave him to his liberty, he prauiſed ſo much the contrary, that he left in writing what he was to act; the perſons he ſhould call to his aſſiſtance, and what Rewards and Favours he ſhould beſtow; ſo diſpoſing of the Government, and all other things by His Letters, that though abſent, he continued thoſe Grievances, which were committed during His preſence: His Maſteſty being left without the means of knowing, and conſequently of avoiding them, and applying a Remedy to theſe Kingdoms, which are left without Juſtice, and without Strength, exhauſted of all things neceſſary for their defence, indebted, afflicted, and almoſt deſpairing of any Cure, the Cuſtom of being ill treated, having kept all perſons from adviſing the King what was fit to be done: (ſo ill was the uſage of all perſons who attempted it) little regard being had either to the love due to a wife, the reſpect to a Brother, the value for the Grandees of the Kingdom, or care taken for the Neceſſities or Rewards of his ſervants. The whole Nation by the Council of the Chamber of this City, and by Deputies employed from the moſt Principle parts of this Kingdom, endeavoured to try a Remedy, by calling together the 3 Eſtates; which was alſo much laboured by the Council of State, who for this purpoſe made very warm Applications; but being now undeceived, and finding no poſſibility of obtaining it, fell into ſo great deſpair, as to proteſt againſt the payment of thoſe Contributions which were intended for the maintenance of the War. This Violence effected what Reaſon could not; His Maſteſty appointing the 1 of JANUARY for their Convention, but this

was again ſundermanded, and the time being now ſpent and no Writs iſſued out to any of the Chambers, nor to the Council of the Chamber of this City, nor any Conſtancy appearing, the good we expected from that Remedy is grown deſperate. His Maſteſty then reſolved to leave the Court, (which cannot have any good conſequence) and ſtill continues in the ſame reſolution: I uſed all ways to aſſiſt him in the Government, by cloſing ſo with him, that by our frequent meetings, things might in time be put into a better poſture; but this, his jealousie would not allow, and our experience hath taught us that our Union cannot be ſtirable, and to endeavour its continuance, would only occaſion greater diſorders. To theſe, many Reſentments is added; the greateſt, that of the abſence of the Queen my Miſtriſs, ſuch and ſo great an accident, that we want words to expreſs, as it requires. At laſt, the Council of the Chamber of this City, aſſiſted by the beſt of the People, and almoſt all the Nobility, taking notice of that, which in me ſeemed careleſſneſs, made their addreſſes to me, and forced me with ſome ſhew of violence to take upon me the Government of theſe Kingdoms. For this reaſon, and others notoriously known, (beſides ſuch, as out of reſpect we conceal) all hopes of finding out any other care to ſave theſe Kingdoms, being utterly loſt, and juſtly fearing leaſt greater evils might ſhortly beſal us, having forced my ſelf to make uſe of the laſt Obligation of Conſcience, Honour, and Affection for the Royal Perſon of the King my Maſter, and theſe his Kingdoms) I reſolv'd (having by my ſelf and others recommended it to God Almighty) with all due reverence, to ſecure the Royal Perſon of his Maſteſty till the Convention of the States of the Kingdom (for which Writs ſhall be immediately iſſued) who with their full Jurisdiction may reſolve upon ſuch Remedies as they ſhall think ſuitable to the preſent Neceſſity, and the Government being my Right, by the abſence of the Queen, no other Reſolution being as yet taken to the contrary, I ſhall with all the diligence I am able, attend it, and I hope too, with ſucceſs; and that it may prove ſo, I particularly deſire the Aſſiſtance of the Perſons in the Aſſembly of the States (which, I hope, I ſhall deſerve of them all) and their Advice, in what may be moſt pleaſing to Almighty God, and ſerviceable to the King my Maſter; and notice is hereby given, that all Diſpatches and Buſineſes are to run in the Name of his Maſteſty, as they did in the time of the Regency of the Queen my Mother and Miſtriſs; keeping now, as was then, all Authority in the Royal Perſon of the King, and in the Service of his Houſe, both within and without, which I will leave, ſo ſoon as the States ſhall reſolve upon the Government of theſe Kingdoms, with whom I hope his Maſteſty will comply, relying on the choice of ſuch Perſon or Perſons as they ſhall make choice of to govern, whom his Maſteſty ought to truſt; as they truſted all go thoſe whom he formerly made choice of. And although the Government is to be with full Jurisdiction, there ought very much Reſpect to be given to what is known to be the juſt deſire of the King to eſlect; and there is no reaſon, theſe Kingdoms ſhould be ſo abandoned, as to want that Remedy which the Laws provide for Men, who are Prodigal, not only of their Reputations, but of their Eſtates: the King, in the Patrimony of the Crown, having nothing but the good adminiſtration of it. And I proteſt once, and oft, that I am, and will be, as long as I live, at the Royal Feet of his Maſteſty, with all the Loyalty I owe him as my King and Maſter, with all the Affection I bear him, as my Brother and Father (for ſo I hold him) and alwayes did ſince the Death of my Lord the King (now with God) and with a fixed Reſolution to maintain to his Royal Perſon, and Successors, all the Regalities they Challenge; ſwearing before God and his Maſteſty the Vaffalage and Homage I owe Him, in the ſame form as thoſe who moſt Religiouſly ſwore between his Hands; Recommending to the Aſſembly of the Three Eſtates, That they take Notice of all the Contents of this Declaration, and proceed accordingly in the Diſpatch of the Buſineſs before them.

Lisbon N. v. 24. 1667.

Printed by Tho. Newcomb in the Savoy, 1667.