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Edinburgh, May 8.

Thursday last being the first day of the Meeting of the Parliament, the Ceremony of riding from Her Majesty's Palace of Holyrood-house to the Parliament House was performed with great Solemnity and in good Order all the Members being on Horseback, and the Nobility in their Robes and Rich Footmantles, in the following Method; Two Trumpets in their Coats and Banners, bareheaded; two Pursuivants in the like manner, the Commissioners for Boroughs two and two, the Commissioners for Shires two and two, the Officers of State (who are not Noblemen) two and two, the Lords or Barons two and two, the Viscounts two and two, the Earls two and two; after them four Trumpets two and two, four Pursuivants two and two, and six Heralds two and two, all in rich Coats; the Lion in his Coat, Robe, Collar and Foot-mantle; then rode in a-breast the Earl of Marr carrying the Sword of State, the Earl of Crawford carrying the Scepter, and the Earl of Forfar (because of the Minority of the Marquis of Douglas) carrying the Crown, all uncovered; and on the Right and Left three Maces with their Maces, bareheaded, and Footmantles; after them the Earl of Morven bearing the Purse, bareheaded; then his Grace the Duke of Queensberry, Her Majesty's High Commissioner, on Horseback, with two Knights walking on each side, four Gentlemen-Uhers walking before his Horse, and before them his Grace's two Pages, and on the Right and Left 16 Footmen, all in rich Liveries; after his Grace the Dukes and Marquises rode; and last of all Her Majesty's Troop of Guards; at the Entry of the Parliament-Close the Constable and his Guards did receive the Members, and at the Door of the House the Earl-Marshal and his Guards: After the Lord High-Commissioner was on the Throne, his Commission was read; after which Her Majesty's Gracious Letter to the Parliament was presented by my Lord Commissioner, which is as follows;

Her Majesty's most Gracious LETTER to the Parliament of Scotland.

ANNE R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE thought to have brought You sooner together in this Meeting of Parliament, but the Great and weighty Affairs wherein We have been engaged this Winter, were a necessary Hindrance.

We have on several Occasions given You and all Our good Subjects Assurance of Our firm Resolution, to maintain and protect them in their Religion, Rights and Liberties, as at present established by Law.

And if there be any thing else wanting for the Satisfaction of Our People, and the Security of that Our Ancient Kingdom, We shall be always ready to have it timely provided for and supplied.

You see that we continue engaged in a great and necessary War for the Defence of the Protestant Religion, and the Preservation of the Liberties of Christendom; And We hope You will be careful to guard against all Dangers that this War may threaten; For which end, We recommend to You more particularly the Consideration of the State of Our Forces, Forts and Garisons, that they be duly and sufficiently maintained, and the necessary Supplies granted for that Effect, and all kept in such Order as may be most conducing to the Ease, as well as Safety of the Country.

We also recommend to your Care, that Trade be encouraged, and all Methods taken for the Advancement thereof, either by amending former Laws, or making new ones, or any thing else that may be found Needful and Expedient for the Benefit of the Kingdom.

It hath been, and shall always be Our chief Study and Endeavour, to establish and secure the Peace, and promote the Good of that Our Ancient Kingdom; And therefore We do expect your Concurrence and Assistance for such good and great Ends; And that you will prosecute them with that Wisdom, Prudence and Unanimity, as may most tend to Our Common Advantage and Satisfaction; But chiefly, that effectual Means may be laid down for promoting of Religion, Virtue and true Piety, and suppressing Vice and Immorality, and providing for the Poor.

We have appointed Our Right Trusty and entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor, James Duke of Queensberry to be our Commissioner, to represent Our Royal Person in this Session of Parliament, being well satisfied that the Experience that both We and you have had of his great Abilities and Fidelity in his former Discharge of this Trust, will fully commend Our Choice, and render him to You acceptable.

This being your first Meeting, and we having recommended nothing but what is for your own Security and Welfare, We confidently expect a suitable Return, and a dutiful and cheerful Concurrence in what We propose; and that all Differences and Animosities laid aside, you will with Concord and Diligence bring Matters to such a happy Conclusion as shall establish a lasting Union between Us and our People: So we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the 30th day of March, 1703. and of Our Reign the Second Year.

By Her Majesty's Command,
TAR B A T.

Then Her Majesty's Commissioner, and thereafter the Earl of Seafeld, Lord High Chancellor, made the following Speeches;

The Speech of his Grace James Duke of Queensberry, &c. Her Majesty's High Commissioner to the Parliament of Scotland, on Thursday the Sixth Day of May, 1703.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HER Majesty has been graciously pleased to give ample and frequent Assurances to maintain and protect the Religion, Laws, and Liberties, of this Her Ancient