

which indeed are Her Majesty's Gracious Condescensions, that in order to obtain what is for our Good, we need only propose it, provided you do it, as no doubt you will, with the Regard and Deference that are due to so Gracious a Sovereign, and that in your Demands, you keep within just and reasonable Bounds, and ask nothing, but what is in Her Majesty's Power to grant.

If there be any thing yet wanting for the better securing our Religion, and the present Church Government, as now by Law Established, or for the suppressing of Vice, and encouraging of Virtue; If any Grievances to be redressed, and new Laws found necessary, as I doubt not but there will; for rectifying of Abuses crept into your Constitution or Administration of the Government, or any part of it, whether it be the Policy, or Justice, or for removing all Encroachments upon the Sovereignty, or Liberties of this Nation, and the Securing and Preserving these entire, and inviolable to our selves and our Posterity: I am fully Empowered and Instructed, not only in all these Matters, to give you what reasonable Satisfaction you can demand; but likewise in any thing may be proposed, for improving of Learning, the advancing of Trade, and encouraging Manufactories: So that in effect nothing hath escap'd Her Majesty's Care, that can any ways contribute to make you a Flourishing and Happy People, She reckoning the Welfare, Peace and Prosperity of Her Subjects, the only way to Her own Greatness and Happiness.

And yet as if all this were too little, Her Majesty extends Her Care for you further, in recommending to you, as you have heard, the settling the Succession in the Protestant Line; and this Her Majesty recommends to you with all the Earnestness She is capable of, as that which is absolutely necessary for securing to your selves, and transmitting to your Posterity, your Religion and Liberties, or whatever else you have, or can have that is valuable. Sure Her Majesty can have no Concern in this, but the Interest of Her People, which does so evidently require the settling of the Succession, and the settling of it at this time, that I hope no true Protestant, and lover of his Country, will, when he hath seriously thought on it, find just Ground to oppose it.

Her Majesty having thus done Her part, and in a manner so Good and Generous, and evidently disinterested, it remains that we fail not to do ours, by letting go this great Opportunity (which if now lost, may possibly never be recovered) to deliver this Nation from the Inconveniencies and Hardships that it hath lye under ever since the Union of the Crowns, and which of late have grown heavier upon it.

Her Majesty hath also recommended to you the Supplies that are wanting for the Purposes mentioned in Her Letter, which I need not repeat; for sure there are none here, who are not convinced of the Necessity of them, and who will not heartily concur in giving of them, notwithstanding the low Circumstances the Country is in at present; especially seeing Her Majesty allows you to enquire into the Misapplications of former Funds given and appropriated by Parliament, and to take such Course as may prevent the like for the future.

One thing more I have to add, and that is concerning the Business of the Plot, of which so great Noise hath been made in our Neighbour Nation: Her Majesty hath allowed me to acquaint you, That in due time the whole Matter shall be laid before you, and that She hath given the necessary Orders for having both the Persons that have been examined in England, and the Papers that relate to that affair sent hither. Her Majesty doubts not but your inquiries into this Plot, or any other Practices of the like nature, will end in your laying down solid measures for preventing of them, or the fatal Consequences of them in time to come; and as to any Questions or Contentions that may arise upon such inquiries amongst you; Her Majesty hopes, That you will manage them with all the temper and moderation that the nature of the thing will allow.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have spoke long; contrary to my way and Inclination, and therefore I shall only add in a Word as to my self, That I am very sensible of my unfitness for so great a Trust; But since such is Her Majesty's Pleasure, I do my best, and I shall esteem my self very happy, if I can any ways contribute to bring Matters to a Settlement in this Nation. It is a great Encouragement to me, I must own it; that the present Opportunity, in a manner, enables me to give at the same time, the greatest Proofs that I can ever hope to give of my Duty to Her Majesty, my Love to my Country, and my Respect to Parliaments, in particular to this honourable Meeting.

The Speech of James Earl of Seafield, Lord High Chancellor, to the Parliament of Scotland, on Tuesday, July 11. 1704.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

You have heard Her Majesty's most gracious Letter, and what his Grace my Lord Commissioner hath been pleased to add; which do fully lay before you the weighty and great Reasons for which Her Majesty hath called you together at this time; and you must all be convinced, That the chief Design of Her Majesty's Government, is to Advance the Hap-

pinefs and Welfare of Her People, and to Protect them in the full Possession and Enjoyment of their Religious and Civil Concerns.

Her Majesty doth, with a very tender and affectionate Concern, lay before you the Danger of Divisions and Animosities; and Recommends to you, to employ your Thoughts for promoting what is for the Security and Advantage of the Kingdom: And you cannot but be sensible, that our Divisions must encourage our Enemies abroad, to form Designs to disturb the Peace and Tranquility we now Enjoy; and therefore ye will, no doubt, make use of this Opportunity to convince all, That this Nation is fixt and firm in their Loyalty to Her Majesty; and that all Her good Subjects will constantly Support Her Government.

Her Majesty doth, with great Earnestness, recommend the Settling of the Succession to the Crown in the Protestant Line, as what would be the surest Foundation for the Security of your Religion and Liberties, and will contribute greatly to the Advancement of the Protestant Interest every where; and this being of so great Consequence, it is not to be doubted, but that you will think this the fit opportunity for taking it under your Consideration, while we have the Advantage of being Convened in Peace under Her Majesty's Protection, and can deliberately consider what is the most probable Mean, for the future, to secure and preserve all that is valuable to us: And for your further Encouragement, you have heard how Her Majesty hath given full Instructions to Her Commissioner to grant such Conditions of Government, with regard to the Succession, as can reasonably be demanded, for securing of the Sovereignty and Liberties of this Kingdom; so that nothing is wanting on Her Majesty's Part, that is necessary for the Establishment and Security of this Nation.

You know that Her Majesty is engaged in a most just and necessary War, for the Defence of the Liberties of Europe, which makes it necessary that Supplies be given for maintaining the Forces, for repairing the Forts and Garisons, for providing the Magazines with Arms and Ammunition, and for maintaining the Frigats which have proven so useful for the guarding of your Trade: All these being so plainly needful, it is not to be doubted, but that you will readily comply therewith. It is to be Regretted, that the Nation is in so low a Condition; but what we give is necessary for our own Defence, and will circulate within the Kingdom: And Her Majesty doth freely allow of taking Inspection of the Funds that have been given by Parliament, and appropriate for the publick Use, and will take care, That what shall be now given, shall be duly applied.

Her Majesty hath given frequent Assurances of Her Resolution to maintain the Established Government of the Church, and hath recommended to you to fall upon effectual Measures for discouraging of Vice and Immorality, and for encouraging true Piety and Religion; and providing for, and employing of the Poor.

The Trade of the Kingdom doth also deserve your serious Consideration; for the Advancement of which, and the Improvement of the Product and Manufactories of the Kingdom, Her Majesty gives you Assurance of Her ready Concurrence.

My Lord Commissioner has acquainted you, That the Plot, which has made so great a Noise here and in our Neighbour Nation, shall be laid before you, with all its Evidences; and it is not to be doubted; but that you will take care to do therein what is necessary for the discouraging of bad Practices, which may tend to disturb the Peace and Quiet of this Kingdom; and in all your Proceedings in this Matter, that you will avoid Animosities, and make it your principal Care to provide for the Publick Security and Peace.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I shall conclude with Recommending to you again the Serious Consideration of what Her Majesty has so earnestly recommended; and that ye will improve this Opportunity, which GOD hath given you, for securing to your selves and transmitting to your Posterity your Religion and Liberties; which will certainly be for your Honour and Happiness, and will render you equally acceptable to Her Majesty, and to all Her Subjects.

The Speech of George Earl of Cromarty, Lord Secretary, to the Parliament of Scotland, on Tuesday, July 11. 1704.

My Lord Chancellor,

Albeit this Seat wherein it has pleas'd Her Majesty to Place me, does allow, or rather oblige me to say something on this Occasion, yet my Lord High Commissioner and Lord Chancellor have said so fully and so well, as I may justly fear what I can say, will prove a Diminutive Addition; But I shall speak little, and (if I can remember) I shall not repeat. My Lord, should all Her Servants be silent, the Actions, the Sayings, the whole Tract of Her Majesty's Government, and the happy Effects thereof do speak loudly, that if ever Prince or Sovereign have Devoted themselves to God and their Country, without Flattery or Hyperbole, we may truly say, that our most Gracious Queen hath: All may hear, and those who have the Honour to attend Her Majesty, must see, that Her Time, Her Care, Her Pleasure, Her Leisure, Her Treasure, yea, Her very Health and Life, are

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