

this Nation languishing and declining in both, the next Demand would probably be for the Throne itself; and what is that but to demand of every Englishman a Surrender of his Liberty and Religion, and every Thing else for the Sake of which 'tis worth Living?

These Views at present are thought proper to be concealed: 'Tis part of a secret Treaty only to place the Pretender upon the Throne of these Kingdoms: But this will no longer be a Secret when it may safely be own'd; and every Diminution of the Trade, and Riches of this Country, makes it safer to own, and easier to execute such Designs. As little as we may be supposed to understand the Affairs of Trade, we see enough to make us Parties in the common Concern of the Nation, and to kindle in us a just Repentment against every Attempt upon it by Fraud or Force.

We have seen ourselves and our Fellow-Subjects so long in a State of Happiness and Satisfaction under your Majesty's auspicious Government, that we had Reason to think the Pretender quite forgotten; but since your Enemies Abroad have embraced the vain and delusive Hopes which your Enemies at Home seem in great Measure to have laid aside, we beg Leave to repeat the solemn Assurances often given, and always remember'd by us, that we will, to the utmost of our Power and Ability, support your Majesty's Government against the Pretender and all his Adherents, whether at Home or Abroad. We know full well, that in this Profession we are not more faithful to your Majesty than to ourselves, and our own Interest; and we are perswaded, that the People of England can never act contrary to their Duty to your Majesty in this Respect, till they grow tired of their Religion and their Liberty, and are willing to abandon themselves to all the Miseries, which, even in a distant View, are shocking to humane Nature.

That your Majesty may long enjoy Health and Vigour to perfect the glorious Work you have undertaken, that the Success may answer to the Justice and Wisdom of your Conduct, that you may be rewarded by seeing Peace and Tranquility restored and settled upon a solid and lasting Foundation, is, and shall be the Prayer, and (as far as we can contribute) the Endeavour of your Loyal University of Cambridge. Given under our Common Seal, the 4th Day of March, Anno Domini 1726.

To which Address His Majesty was pleas'd to return the following most gracious Answer.

I Thank you for this Dutiful and Loyal Address. The Zeal and Affection which you express for my Person and Government, are very seasonable at this Juncture, and give me great Satisfaction. My University of Cambridge may be assured of the Continuance of my Protection, Favour and Encouragement.

His Majesty was pleas'd to receive them very graciously, and they all had the Honour to kiss His Majesty's Hand.

The following humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital and Inferior Burgeses of the Borough and Town of Taunton, in the County of Somerset, has been presented to His Majesty by James Smith and Abraham Elton, Esqrs; their Representatives in Parliament, introduced by the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Townshend one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. Which Address His Majesty was pleas'd to receive very graciously.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital and inferior Burgeses of the Borough and Town of Taunton, in the County of Somerset.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, being truly sensible of your Majesty's wise and steady Administration, your Fatherly Care for the just Rights and Privileges of your People, your tender Regard for the Laws, your prudent and wise Steps taken for the Security and Advancement of Trade, with other inestimable Blessings that attend your Majesty's Government, kindle in our Breasts not only an inexpressible Sense of Joy, but also the utmost Abhorrence of those Powers, who have so treacherously combined to invade the Peace of your Majesty's Dominions, in peremptorily and in an hostile Manner demanding a Delivery of Port Mahon and Gibraltar, Places of the greatest Importance to the Security of our Trade, and by endeavouring to impose a Popish Pretender on the Throne of these Realms. Wherefore we humbly presume (as bound by the strictest Principles of Duty and Gratitude)