

Common Council of your City of Exeter, in Chamber assembled, humbly beg Leave (on the Occasion of the Intelligence your Majesty has communicated to your Parliament of an intended Invasion from France, in Favour of the eldest Son of the Pretender to your Realms) to approach your Throne with the warmest and most unfeigned Assurances of our stedfast and inviolable Fidelity and Attachment to your Sacred Person, Government and Family.

We cannot look upon the Insolence of this Attempt without the greatest Horror and Detestation, from the fullest Conviction of our Hearts, that our Religion, Laws, Liberties, Properties, every Thing that can be thought dear or valuable to Englishmen, are inseparably connected with, and can be only secured to us by the Preservation of your Majesty's sacred Person, the Continuance of your auspicious Government, and the Succession in your most illustrious Family.

Engaged by the most affecting Interests, bound by the strongest Ties, influenced by the warmest Gratitude, and the clearest Sense of Duty, we are fully determined, at the Hazard of our Lives and Fortunes, to contribute every Thing within our Power towards the Support, Maintenance, and Defence of your Royal Person and Government, and your undoubted Right and Title to the Throne of these Kingdoms, against all Pretenders and their Adherents, and all other your Majesty's Enemies whatsoever.

And we doubt not but your Majesty, supported by the general Affection of a brave and free Nation; with the Blessing of God on the Justice of your Cause, will easily disappoint and baffle the important Attempts of your Enemies, and return the Mischief on their own Heads, to their Shame and Confusion.

Given under our Common Seal this Twenty third Day of February, in the Seventeenth Year of your Majesty's Reign.

*St. James's, February 27.*

This Day the Right Honourable the Earl of Arran, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, with Dr. Hodges the Vice Chancellor, and his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by several Heads of Houses, Doctors in the several Faculties, Masters of Arts, and other Members of that Learned Body, waited on his Majesty in their Formalities, and being introduced by his Grace the Duke of Grafton, Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household, Mr. Vice Chancellor presented the following Address.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford.

*Most gracious Sovereign,*

THE undoubted Intelligence receiv'd by your Majesty of an intended Invasion of these your Kingdoms, ought to awaken in all your Subjects an Attention to so interesting an Alarm, and unite their Endeavours effectually to disappoint and defeat an Attempt which threatens to deprive us of all that is valuable to ourselves, and all that is worth transmitting to our Posterity.

Our Invaders well know, from their own Constitution, the small Value of uncertain Possessions, every Hour liable to the Demand and Seizure of an arbitrary enterprising Prince: And the Success of your Majesty's Arms will soon, we doubt not, fully convince them that we are too Wise and Brave a People, to part with real for imaginary Property, and are not so infatuated as to purchase the ignominious Exchange, at the vast Expence of pure Religion and British Liberty.

The solid and disinterested Principles of Piety and Loyalty, have ever engaged your University of Oxford in the Defence of their Sovereigns upon all important Emergencies; and your Majesty may securely rely upon the steady and inviolable Attachment of those Persons, who will ever be guided by the uniform Influence and Direction of such laudable Rules of Conduct and Action.

Permit us therefore to assure your Majesty of all the Assistance we can contribute on our Part in this critical Conjuncture, which we trust will not be vain or ineffectual, as we promise ourselves that Heaven will hear our earnest and continual Prayers for the Preservation of your sacred Person, the Prosperity of your Royal and Illustrious House, and the successful Progress of your Arms.

Given at our Convocation-House the Twenty Third Day of February, in the Year of our Lord 1743.

To which His Majesty was pleased to return this most gracious Answer.

*I Thank you for this dutiful and loyal Address. The Affection you shew for my Person and Government, and your Concern for the Preservation of our happy Constitution in Church and State, give me great Satisfaction. The University may always depend upon my Favour and Protection.*

They all had the Honour to kiss His Majesty's Hand.

*St. James's,*