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English Inquisition:
OR,
MONEY RAIS'D
BY THE
New Secret Extent Law,
Without Act of Parliament.

WHEREIN

It is prov'd that an Arbitrary Power tolerated in these Realms, gives up to be sacrific'd at Pleasure, every Man's Right and Property; in Defence of which near a Hundred Millions of *English* Money, with a Sea of Christian Blood, have been expended since the Revolution.

In the Treatise is enter'd
An Account of Seven Persecutions rais'd by the Whigs put into Posts of Profit, against one Subject that has done a piece of Service for this Government, which Five Hundred Thousand Pounds might not have purchased.

- I. Persecuted with Calumnies, by false Wits, even to the sacrificing his Reputation.
- II. Persecuted with Imprisonment for writing in Defence of King *William III.*
- III. Persecuted by being obliged to pay wrongfully Ten times the Taxes charg'd upon *Dr. Welton.*
- IV. Persecuted with the Dammage of 2100 *l.* to discharge one of His Majesty's Debtors.
- V. Persecuted for giving up 1000 *l.* to keep the *Romish* Host out of the Establish'd Church.
- VI. Persecuted with the Loss of an Undertaking worth 1000 *l.* per *An.* for raising the Revenues of the Crown, 30000 *l.* a Year.
- VII. Persecuted for losing 1000 *l.* in striving to obtain the Two present good Parliaments in *Great Britain* and *Ireland.*

Si ingratum dixeris, omnia dixeris.

LONDON:
Printed in the Year 1718.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

THIS Treatise lay before the Government and the Commissioners of Excise from October, to the Day the Parliament met, and no Restitution being order'd, the Book is now Dedicated to every true Briton: It will be presented by Messengers or in Letters: Then in a Week's time several Gentlemen will wait upon them to receive what return they please to make for the said Treatise. The Money rais'd from thence, is to repair what the Author has suffer'd by the severe Persecutions express'd in the Title Page. Copies will be given out, and Collections made within the Weekly Bills of Mortality, during the whole Sessions of Parliament; and after that, in the Cities and Towns of other Counties. It is request'd of every Gentleman, if not at Home or engag'd when he is call'd on for his Contribution, to leave an Answer of his Intention: He is also earnestly entreated to bind up this Copy with one of his Octavo Volumes, that the English Inquisition, may be there enter'd upon Record: The said History only will advance the Price, and sell the Book, when it is ever put up as any Auction. The true Copies have the Coat of Arms above, Printed on them. And all Persons appointed to receive the Subscription-Money, are at the receipt of it, to produce the Seal of the said Coat of Arms, sign'd by the Author's own Hand; such as are without it are Counterfeit.

The English Address.

Dedicated to every true BRITON.

THERE wants no Ceremony to introduce TRUTH with Grandeur to an Audience: She is as it were a Goddess, all Mankind owe Allegiance to her: Truth always takes care to appear in her proper Light: She naturally triumphs over Falshood, notwithstanding the infinite Number of Persons that take pleasure in her Persecution: Her Power is high, and ought at all times to demand entrance before Sovereign Princes, or the greatest Assemblies. Now Truth exerts her self upon an extraordinary Occasion, to Plead in defence of the Government and of the Collective Body of

the whole Nation; against an Arbitrary Power, and to tell of a Subject destroy'd for no Fault, except that he has labour'd hard to bring Glory and Honour to his Native Country.

In 1675, at the burning of *James-Town* in *Virginia*, General *Bacon* then told Sir *William Barkley* the Governour, That his Father Colonel *Bacon* was the Principal Person who promoted him to the Government; "And (now says the General) you have rewarded our Family for that Act. I am proclaim'd a Rebel, and my Possessions destroy'd; because I maintain'd the Trade of the Plantation, and kept the Barbarous *Indians* from Massacring the King's Subjects. In some heat the General concluded with these Words to the Governour. "Sir, I tell you, Ungrateful Men truly Merit breaking upon the Wheel, or impaling alive; since no Crime (he thought) could exceed that vile Sin.

I shall here leave it to the Censure of the Serious and Judicious Reader, to judge whether I have not reason to express my self in the same Terms to some High Officers, that have been and now are Employ'd under the Crown. The Sum Total I have lost and expended by virtue of my Seven Persecutions, amounts to Seventeen Hundred Pounds per Annum, and Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Three Pounds in Money.

It is altogether disagreeable to my *Genius* to take any Glory to my self, but a continued Series of Black Ingratitude obliges me now to speak Men prefer'd at the Study of my Brain, have Plagu'd me with *Nero's* Punishments: Upon that account, it is time my Services to the Government, and their ungenerous Returns to me, should be Publish'd at the Door of every House in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*. The Discovery of both, may be of singular use to the Age: Never any Subject had so much Cause to Complain as I have: I write the Discourse, that no *English-Man* may ever have again the like unhappy occasion, to draw such a dark Scene as I shall here present to every Eye.

This Treatise being like to Travel into several Provinces of the Christian World, and to have Crowds of Readers to inspect narrowly into every Line; I shall to frame my Arguments, and acquit my Conduct in the present Undertaking, give as a Plan, some thoughts of the nature of what is requir'd from Superiours and Inferiours in points of Sovereignty and Subjection.

There are Celestial and Terrestrial Laws: The Deity made a Covenant with Man at the Creation, in Affairs of Divine Government: To answer that Sacred Ordinance; Princes enter into Articles with their Subjects, to Rule by certain Precepts in Humane Administrations.

With great submission, I take the freedom to give it in as my first Opinion, That in every Nation, all Subjects are oblig'd in Duty to practise the Doctrine of Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance to the Establish'd Legislature.

In return to this Allegiance due from the People, the Sovereign on his part, is bound to keep the Coronation Oath, and maintain in the strictest sense the Laws of the Realm. Upon the violation of those Agreements by the Sovereign, the Condition of the Subjects Obligation is void.

If this is not own'd as a Principal Preliminary, then all Authority is vested in Rulers, and no Power at all left to the People, to defend off Injuries offer'd to them by Tyrants, tho' it should be even in Cases

ses of saving Life or Estate; a Priviledge granted to Man at his first Original, and confirm'd to him by the whole Council of the Sacred Trinity.

All that are acquainted with the various turns of Actions, and have Travell'd in distant Parts of the World, must needs take notice in their Observations and Converse, That this very Principle is taught among the most Obedient and Innocent People, that live upon the face of the Earth; and even every separate Body of irrational Beings from a Natural Instinct joyns with one Voice to maintain inviolably the most ancient Law of Self-preservation.

Tho' there is a disunion in Man upon this Point in our Nation; yet the universal Harmony I see in all inferiour Creatures, convinces me, That if a Subject can only claim a real Title to a Cave or a Cottage; he is a free Agent, and has a right to Act as a Supreme absolute Sovereign in matters that relate to his own lawful Possessions: All that attack him there without just Authority, be they Governours or Peasants, raise a Rebellion in his Jurisdiction; and he may by equity use them as Traytors.

There's no Command to be found in the Divine Volume, that then enjoyns any Man to Passive Obedience: The previous Question at that time, is not to be put; Whether we shall yield or resist? We are if we have strength or Courage, to go on and Conquer, to recover and maintain our own Right, but no farther.

From this Plan of Government, I shall plead to secure to the utmost Period of Time, the Right and Title the Subjects of all Kingdoms and States have to their Inheritance, without diminishing the Power and Authority given to Monarchs and Governours in their distinct Dominions and Provinces, according to the Rules and Customs of their several Principalities and Countries.

In a Nation of Liberty, there are hardly any People in the World so discontented as the *English*. The Enemies to the present Establishment have publish'd Voluminous Works against the Proceedings of the Sovereign, the Parliament and the Ministry; but in all their Treatises extant, none of those Authors has as yet made it appear, That since the Demise of the late Queen, any Man ever suffer'd, either in his Real or Personal Estate, from a despotick Will assum'd by the Prince, or any Body of Men acting in the Sphere of Government.

Dr. *Sacheverel* the principal Agent of the whole Company in the time of the former Ministry, could not then say, That his or any other Church in the Nation was shut up, or that any one Incumbent was put out of his Benefice, contrary to the Laws of the Realm: However that Reverend Gentleman's small Piece, his Sermon of a Sheet and a half of Paper, (only because it treats of publick Danger to the Universities) made greater noise in the World, and did more mischief, than the late eruption of the burning Mountain in the Island of *St. Vincent*; tho' there at the first breaking out, every Convulsion of the frame of Nature was said to be terrible, and the Groans louder than the Voice of Thunder.

That Subject, who arraigns or censures the Establish'd Constitution, or any Body of Men put in trust under the Crown, without a clear Plea, Merits all the Pains due to a Traytor or an Incendiary. I wish to God, I had no occasion to send this Tract into the World, to speak of

of my Sufferings by the low Church Party, put into Posts of Profit; I impeach no others of that whole Community, and continue firm in the same sentiments I was ever of, to maintain all the Revolution Principles; An arbitrary Power practis'd by some Persons shall never make me degenerate into a Tory or give in any unworthy Reflections upon my Right and lawful Sovereign or his Administration. But I'll tell of Men that have acted illegally, and of some that still continue to do so, under the umbrage of the Royal Authority. And threaten by their Conduct to bring the Kingdom again into Distress, equal to the Tyranny of the Romans.

If it appears I have advanc'd any false Articles, I desire to suffer the Punishment of a common Enemy to the State; but if what is here laid down, can't be deny'd with Truth, and really claims the Title of *English Inquisition*, I hope the Government will receive the Performance as done for their Service; as well as for me to obtain my own Right: Tho' this Title of Inquisition is new in our Climate; yet I shall prove it to answer the Outrages and Severities of the *French*, the *Italian*, and even the *Spanish Inquisitions*, and to be a natural representation of the Racks and Tortures us'd in foreign Parts; where they inflict Misery and Ruin upon all those that have the Misfortune to be reputed Hereticks.

This Discourse is impartial, it charges both High-Church and Low Church with Faults. The Tories threaten'd to put me into their Inquisition: But that Party never really executed any one Act of Violence against me, farther than Threats and bad Names; which I took only to arise from heat of Passion, for my being severe upon them in my Writings. As to the Whigs, some of them when invested with Authority; they in times of Danger, were ever very liberal in promising me great Preferments, as a Reward for my Service to the Publick. But in the intervals, when the Sun of Prosperity shin'd upon them; they cast me into their Inquisition, and have rack'd me with intolerable Persecutions. These Plagues and Tortures are all the Payment or Recompence I ever receiv'd from the first calling over of our Great Deliverer King *William III.* to this present Year 1718. I wish that upon sight of this Copy all the Ministers of State, who are truly in the Interest of his Most sacred Majesty's Person and Administration, would Plead my Cause at the Council Board, with the same earnestness as I do it here, against a set of Men that have assum'd to themselves an Arbitrary Power in Prejudice of every individual Subject's Tranquility and Safety.

Michael Angelo having decoy'd and fasten'd a poor Man to a Cross, he then suddenly pull'd out a Dagger in sight of the Caitiff; and stabb'd him to the Heart, as he was hanging on the Tree; whereby that famous Painter saw in the Tragedy, such a perfect Scene of all the last Terrours of Death fixt in the Face of the Expiring Object, that from thence he drew the bitter Agony of the *Messiah's* Sufferings, more lively than any other Artist could ever attain to.

This Act of the Painter's Cruelty is an Emblem of the Barbarity of those that put me into their Inquisitions: The Instance is brought in to set forth, That in beholding the Tragical End of my Reputation and Estate by Treachery and Ingratitude, I can now more naturally represent Right and Property sacrific'd by Tyranny than any other Subject that

that was never forc'd to undergo that rigid Discipline. I proceed now to the Particulars of the seven Persecutions I have been oppress'd with, by Men who ought in point of Justice to have acted quite the Reverse.

P E R S E C U T I O N. I.

False Wits rais'd to Honour upon my fall, have taken the Liberty to distinguish me by the odd Characters of Maggot, Projector, Mad Man or worse Titles. This is one part of the Gratitude of the Low Church Party, when in Power, to eclipse my Reputation, in order to prevent his Majesty or the Ministry, from taking notice of my Performances in the publick Service of the Church and State; But this is the least Article I have to complain of, since I never acted in prospect to obtain Honour and Riches at Court.

P E R S E C U T I O N. II.

In the Year 1702. The Aldermen of the City of *Gloucester*, and Justice *Rich*, in *Gravel-lane Southwark*, imprison'd me and my Servants for Writing my too large *Obituary Volumes*, one intitled *Meditations* and the other *Holy Thoughts*, in which was prov'd King *William's* Title to the *British Crown*, and the Revolution-Principles maintain'd. It is true, the Secretary of State in that Prince's Reign was pleas'd to reprimand the Magistrate of *Surrey* for his rash Conduct, but no Recompence, tho' promis'd, was ever given me for that violent Insult, nor for the Money I spent in those Days after the Aldermen of the City of *Gloucester*, purely upon account of their reviling the Administration.

P E R S E C U T I O N. III.

Here I'll give a Copy of an Original Manuscript taken out of my own Study. In the fifth Year of Queen *Anne*, Mr *John Harwood* in little *Kerbey-Street* in the Parish of *St. Andrew Halbourn*, one of the Assessors of the Land-Tax, prevail'd with his Brethren, to Rate me, besides Stock, for an Income or an Estate of 600 *l. per Annum* in that Parish; tho' both he and they well knew, that I had not any Possessions to the Value of 40 *s.* a Year in the whole County. The said *Harwood* to pursue his wicked Intentions, came to my House and seiz'd my Coach-Horses worth about 60 Pounds, with a considerable quantity of Plate, which Goods were apprais'd and Sold scarce at half the Value: The loss in the whole amounted to seventy Three Pounds odd Money. I was advis'd by Council to take my Course at Law; as believing the Man was able to refund: But upon my being resolv'd to begin the Process, the said *Harwood* dreading the Consequence, shut up his House and absconded, and the shatter'd Bankrupt in a short time after dy'd a poor Miserable Wretch. I apply'd my self to the Commissioners appointed to hear Appeals in such Cases: They told me it was out of their Power to relieve me, the Money being then paid into the Exchequer. After that, I Petition'd the Government; there I could get no other Redress but Promises, which soon tir'd out my Patience in attending for nothing more than empty Air.

I shall now take leave to give in the Words of a Right Reverend Prelate upon this very Point: His Lordship said, "The Doctrine of Divinity ought in such Cases to instruct Administrations to Act in the same Method as the Courts of Equity do, to restore a Man his Right upon Complaint, where he cannot obtain it by Common Law: Provided the Money taken away wrongfully is lodg'd in the Possession" on

“ on of the Crown. From that Day to this, I never could recover one Penny of that Cash, it went to carry on the War and other Uses: so that neither Dr. *Welton* nor any other Non-Juror, tho' known Enemies to the present Establishment, ever paid the Tenth part of the Taxes I was oblig'd to do. As to these three first Articles, I do not lay any great stress upon them; they being Trifles in comparison of the matters I have now to advance.

P E R S E C U T I O N. IV.

This is a late Inquisition executed upon me this very Year 1718. By the Commissioners of Excise: That have taken upon them to raise Money from my Estate, without Act of Parliament, by virtue of the *New Secret-Extent Law*; a very notable Enterprize to be acted among a Free-born People. The Outrages their Officers have committed upon my Possessions, amounts to the loss of Two Thousand One Hundred Pounds, if they be not put into their Original Order: One Thousand seven Hundred Pounds for the Rent that is already due, and would have become payable during my Lease; and four Hundred Pounds, the Goods with the Materials and fitting up, cost since Lady-Day was two Years, all which is either carry'd off or destroy'd; the Place is not worth Twenty Shillings *per Annum*. This terrible Ravage was made upon me to discharge one of his Majesty's Debtors that did not owe the Sum of Two Pounds to the Crown.

It was the Opinion of some Persons of Penetration, That I should find it as hard a task to recover the return of my Right out of the strong Hands of the Powerful; as it is for the Hind to conquer the Lion, when he is in full pursuit of his Prey. I found that Prophecy true, the Work has prov'd like an Infant struggling with Giants, or as the labour of removing Mountains. The Oppressors will not reverse that Decree, but keep in possession what was taken from me by Rapine and Plunder.

That which at first encourag'd the Attempts to obtain restitution from them, was an Example of a Soldier, who when wounded and vext with Pain, and the Cruelty of the Enemy in giving no Quarter, he ventur'd at Midnight into the Tyrant's Camp, and sound'd with his Trumpet, a sudden Call or Charge to engage in Battel: A Panick Terror put the whole Body of Troops to flight, and the disabled Cripple was left in full Possession of all the Spoils taken in the last Day's Victory by the Usurper's Army.

Now tho' I had not the Soldier's good Fortune to recover upon my former Essays, what was wrested from me by Might; yet those Defeats animate me to make another Onset, and go on with more Resolution and Strength of Reason, I am resolv'd to seek for the return of my Loss, or to fall a Victim, in defence of my own and the Nation's Security.

The Plan of Humane Government I first laid down, I ever maintain'd, and was always ready to Seal with my Blood: It is the Ground-work of Revolution-Principles, upon that very Foundation we now stand. If it is deny'd, and to be prosecuted at this time, I am ready to suffer; but 'tis hop'd it will not (in the present Reign) be thought a Crime to expose Actions that threaten to bring Dragoons into our Houses.

The large *Quarto*. and *Octavo* Volumes, with other small Treatises and Pieces I have writ, exceed Six hundred in Number: Great part of those

those Discourses extant, are to prove the Reign of King *William III.* and this Government to be founded upon the excellent Maxims of maintaining inviolably the Freedom and Privileges of the People: and generous to reward true Zeal and Loyalty, wherever they are to be found.

It may now be thought strange to see a Treatise come out under the same Hand, that seems to be any contradiction to the former Works: Whatever it is, I am sure the Voice of the People will vindicate my Conduct, and see that this Address is not hurry'd into the World without Thought and Necessity, 'tho' it is Publish'd with the greatest reluctancy.

Having receiv'd in the course of my Life intumerable Wrongs, I always strove, (as much as possible) by private Application to have them redress'd; but could never prevail in any one Article. Being thus quite tir'd out in many Years vain Prospect of Success, and with abundance of Court-like Answers of future Performances, I am now fully purpos'd to attend no more at those lofty Thresholds; but to Address my self to the lower Spheers: not but that all the Acts I have here to Offer, are of so high a Nature, that they come not within the limits of a private Hearing at any of the common Bars of Judicature: They require the Judgment and Censure of one or both Houses of Parliament, or of the King and his most Honourable Privy Council.

But since those August Assemblies have not as yet thought fit to examine into my Cases; or to command any *Premium* for my Seven Persecutions; I shall now refer my self to the determination of the Collective Body of all the People of the Kingdom; If their General Verdict passes against me; then I'll give up my Cause as lost, and not before.

At the late Demolition of my Estate by the Commissioners, which Act broke in upon the *English* Constitution, and threaten'd every Man with an Invasion, to put him out of Possession of his House or Lands; I deliver'd *April 22d.* to the Honourable Privy Council, the Lords of the Treasury, and the Secretaries of State an Account of the Ravage made upon me, and entreated those High Officers that Restitution might be made. But upon the deep silence of the Ministry (which was to me an extream Surprize) I gave in Copies of this Treatise to many Persons at the Helm of Government; with the following Letter Printed therein.

Honoured Sir,

“ I T Is now six Months since I presented my Case to the Ministers of State; shewing that the Commissioners of Excise had seiz'd and tore to pieces my Estate of a Hundred a Year, contrary to the known Laws of the Land: And, Sir, your Honour being one that serves his Majesty in a high Post, I presume with great Submission to lay before you, That from the long Silence of the Court in that and other Affairs; Extremity now obliges me, as my last Refuge, to Print this Treatise of the Wrongs done me by Persons that have been and now are employ'd under the Crown, and dedicate it to every true *Briton*, that I may obtain his Contribution for the Copy, to-

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wards

wards repairing my great Damage, and to make up what I have really lost in striving to obtain the two present good Parliaments in Great Britain, and Ireland: It is too close a Tryal to be ruin'd by the Government, for no other cause than that of endeavouring to save the State from the hands of foreign and Domestick Enemies.

My Case is look'd upon to be so singular, that I am countenanc'd to the Work, by the true sense, the Publick seem to have of the Violence put upon me, even to my Destruction. Tho' I believe that for me to ask Redress from door to door upon such Occasions, will be a sad Reflection, on those that have so terribly griev'd me; yet no Man in Power can resent it: For would any Gentleman (tho' my Enemy) but be pleas'd to make my Plea his own; I'm sure he must secretly approve of all the steps I have already, or shall hereafter pursue, to get by any just means, the Restoration of my real Right and Property in those Points I here complain of.

I look upon it as my Duty, (before the Parliament meets, and any of these Copies are deliver'd out for making Publick Subscriptions) to present them first to the Principal Persons at the Helm of Government. If then I may yet have any reasonable Restitution by Command of the Higher Powers, I shall with great cheerfulness commit the whole Impression to the Flames: so as not one of the Copies may see Light, but dye as in the *Embryo*, and never receive a Birth in these Regions, to beg Charity of the Subject to make good what is lost in the Service of the Government, and taken away by an unjust Decree issu'd out in the Name of the Sovereign. I am, Sir, with all humble Subjection.

From *Bellfize* at
Hampsted Middlesex,
October 1718.

Your most Obedient and

Devoted, Servant

CHARLES POVEY.

I here testify openly, That slavish Principle was never infus'd into my Spirit, to see my own or any other Subject's House rifled and plunder'd, against the Decrees of the Three Estates of the Realm, and to sit Mute. An Arbitrary Act must be suppress'd in its Infancy, or it may grow to a Head, and fester like a deep Wound that appears heal'd, but putrify'd at the bottom. I do not speak to give Offence; but this may be said, that Laws and Liberties, as to any private Man as well as the Publick, are to be maintain'd or they are not. Administrations fix'd upon real Principles, cannot deny to secure the Fundamental Article, which is the very Essence of the People's immediate natural Preservation.

This Piece is compos'd to stand as a Wall of Brass, to preserve every Man's Title to his Lands, his Houses, or his Goods from falling at the Foot of a powerful Enemy, or the Spite of Party-Pique. I take it to be Treason in the Abstract, to be silent when there is the least appearance of the Monarch's being secretly betray'd by any Commissioners or other Inferior Officers Acting under the Crown; and when the Yoke of

of Bondage is actually put, tho' upon the Neck only of a single Subject: To conceal a Despotick Power, may eclipse the Honour of the Sovereign, the Parliament and the Ministry; which I am resolv'd here to maintain, by discovering an Illegal Act practis'd in the Government of the Commissioners of Excise: Their Proceedings were carry'd on with the face of Authority; but without the Order or Knowledge of those most Noble Assemblies. I am in earnest to declare this Point, That the Supreme Legislative Powers of any Nation ought not to be charg'd with the breach of Laws, before they are apprisd of the Action: If the Mischief is now suppress'd, and no other Subject falls a Victim to Revenge, by the New Secret Extent Statute: I shall think I have gain'd Glory to the Government, and put every Subject out of Danger of being again' rifled in his Possessions contrary to the Laws of the Realm, by the capricious Humour of proud aspiring Men, that have the vanity to fancy the oppressing of their Fellow-Subjects to advance the Crown-Revenues ingrafts them fast in their Offices and Salaries. I think we do not now live under so bad an Administration as to see such Enemies of the State favour'd in their vile Proceedings. In this material Point, every *English-Man* will stand by me; be he *Whig* or *Tory*, *Nonjuror* or *Roman Catholic*. Liberty and Property are inestimable Jewels in our Climate.

There are Subjects in all States, that fear not to deliver their Sentiments, tho' it crosses the Humour of some Men in Power. It was a bold but noble Speech, made in the Parliament of *Paris*, by an injur'd *Huguenot*, upon the first breaking out of an Arbitrary Power in that Kingdom. "The Arrest (says he) pass'd this Day to take away my Right, Cancels the Title of every Subject's ancient Liberty, and delivers up Property at the Demand of the King, or the Will of an ambitious Courtier."

Upon the first view of a Despotick Authority gathering in any one branch of the Government unknown to the Administration, I look upon it to be as much a Duty to give notice of it, as it is to awaken the Inhabitants of a House, at the breaking out of a Fire in their Apartments; a Conflagration is sooner extinguish'd in a City, than an Arbitrary Law put in execution, can be extirpated out of a Nation. To maintain Right and Property has been the Quarrel of this Age; that has exhausted the Publick Coffers, and made *England* poor.

From the general Opinion of the People, as to this New Act of Violence put upon me, I am encourag'd by Gentlemen and Persons of Worth, to ask for Subscriptions for this Treatise, till I am repaid what I have really given up and suffer'd by the Commissioners Inquisition. The original Paper I publish'd and presented to the Ministry, about the seizure of my Estate, had a full concurrence of Readers in every County where it was sent. All Parties with great impatience, expected every Day the *Gazette* came forth, either to hear that I was taken up and imprison'd as a base Impostor; or that those who did me the Injury were expell'd the Service of the Government. Every one concluded nothing less than a Publick Declaration of Punishment or Disgrace on one side, would be the event of that Charge.

As there are now many other Discoveries made in several Points very surprizing, and a thousand Witnesses to prove the Act true, that have seen the Ruins of my demolished Estate; it is adjudg'd to be such a

new-contrived Pain of Persecution inflicted upon a Subject, contrary to all Equity, as it raises in the Breasts of the Spectators the utmost Detestation.

They declaim against the Rapine, as if there were no Words to be found for me to express my Relentments, or for the Publick to have it redress'd, to secure their own Properties: For tho' only one single Body of Men intrusted with the Commission of Excise, was privy to the enacting of this Arbitrary Statute; yet it is the Vote of Men well-skill'd in the nature of our Constitution; That the Administration, (when appris'd of it) becomes so far chargeable with the Proceedings, as to remove the Offenders from their Posts, and command due Satisfaction to be given to the injur'd Party.

Some Persons of Honour that have an influence at Court, promis'd that the first Paper Printed upon this Occasion, should be translated into French, and presented to the King, had that been done, there would have been no need for me to take a Progress from City to City and Town to Town to get in Collections upon this unhappy Exigent, for what the Commissioners have forc'd from me, against the Practice even of the very Pagan Governments, I am certain was his most Sacred Majesty to read this Treatise, he is a Prince of such great Wisdom, and so averse to an Act, which breaks in upon the Right of any one Subject, that a Mandate would be soon issu'd out to make me Triple Restitution, for every Penny's Loss and Damage I have sustain'd. The Guilty must then be excluded from ever acting more under the present Administration; In that case I may be the first and the last Man deprived of his Property and Inheritance, from the coming in, to the end of the New Line of the Illustrious House of Hanover.

The only dispute does not here depend, That I as a single Subject am destroy'd, but the Point turns upon this Issue, my disaster gives jealousy to every Man, lest he should be the next devour'd by the same or some other secret Contrivance that relates to his own Concern or Interest. To be only in Peril, is an Emblem of War in time of Peace. But against me Hostilities are begun with great Fury, by a Company of Men, that have from their own private Councils (not an Act of their Superiours) enter'd upon an Inquisition that disinherit me of the real Right and Title I have to my own Possessions: These new Law-givers go on faster in their Commissions, than ever Father Peters the Jesuit and the Lord Chancellor Jeffreys ventur'd to do: They never went so far in their Progress as to the Arrest of Justice towards a private Person, tho' they had the countenance of their Sovereign: These my Enemies can derive no Authority from the Throne, for what they have done: In my Case Money is Extorted without any pretence or colour of Law, and terrible Havock made in the Execution; What I call my own now lies at stake, and the Question is, whether I shall be a Slave or a Freeman? Whether I have a right to be restor'd to my Estate, or whether by virtue of the Commissioners new Statute, they have a Title to keep it in their Possession, or to appropriate it to the use of the Publick, as they Imperiously give it out, to the dishonour of our excellent Constitution?

It cannot be improper here, to set down the Minutes relating to two Grecian Robbers, one Noble the other ignobly descended: as for the Person of High Birth, tho' he had stolen from the Republick a vast heap of Treasure, yet Favour and Fortune sav'd his Life; the other

“ther suffer'd Death only for being privy to that Design. To this ancient piece of History, I shall bring in a Modern Instance, a late Act of Parliament, for the management of the Land Forces: His Majesty has order'd the Contents of that remarkable Statute to be drawn up into Articles; one of which is, “That in Case any Officer, Non-Commission Officer or Soldier be accused of any Violence or Offence, against the Person, Estate or Property of any Subject; he shall be Try'd by a Court-Martial, within the space of Eight Days if the Person injur'd desires it; or otherwise the Offenders are to be punish'd by the Civil Magistrate.

A private Centinel by extravagancy, may in one Night's Revel, spend his Week's Pay, and before the Day of Reckoning comes again, be forc'd by the Temptation of extream Hunger, to trespass upon the Liberties of an Inn-keeper or a Farmer, and Carry off a few Poultry, or some other small Booty of Provision: For this Fault the poor Soldier runs the Gantlet, rides the Wooden Horse, or is cast into the Common Goal. In the pillaging of my Estate, no such Excuse can be Pleaded; and yet no Notice at all is taken to punish my Thievs; tho' I Complain'd of the Act, and prov'd that they took from me Plunder sufficient to feed an Army. Was every Inhabitant to be rifled in his Stock, as I am; there would be no need for the Parliament to raise Money, though Spain should now declare War against us, all the Batalions and Squadrons, might then turn Levellers, and live upon free Quarter.

It was a pretty device in the East-Indies, when any Man in High Power had oppress'd the Subject, the Ingenious us'd to represent his Picture and Employments on China Ware, to shew that so long as such Men were retain'd in their Places of Trust, the Empire stood upon very brittle Foundations: To this I shall subjoyn, that I have by strict Enquiry made many new Discoveries which relate to the unparalleled executing of the Judgment upon my Premises: The particulars are so Copious that they Compleat 31 Articles. Could not I have Collected them, some by my own certain knowledge; and others from authentick Testimonials; the Commissioners and their Officers might Plead that they were diligent Servants to the Administration; to gather in the utmost Demands of the Publick Revenues, according to the Laws of the Realm; But now it appears that their view was to break thro' all the Statutes laid down in Government, and even to go beyond the most Arbitrary Lawgivers in their Proceedings. Here it will be seen with detestation by all Men that love Liberty and Property what pains was taken to evade Truth, and to avoid Publick Censure. He that reads to the end of this Tract will have reason to believe, that there are Persons not yet thought of by the World, who had some Hand in laying the first Invention of this Scheme, and that from the beginning of the Enterprize have been employ'd as busy Instruments in preventing the Ministry from enquiring into the Matter; secretly insinuating, as if it were only a Trifle; or that in case the Commissioners were oblig'd to make Restitution, they could not go on with success in executing their Office. Should such Amusements take, or divert Justice, what a loud cry would the Enemy raise in our Administration! The Government we know, is not to be supported by such glaring Wrongs and Oppressions: There's too sad an instance of that in France, where the People, in the Month of August last, rose up and kill'd the Commissioners that oppress'd them in their Taxes.

I am sensible that the nature of some Constitutions is taken in this sense, that whatever Steps are made by any Persons acting under the Crown, the Administration is answerable for such Management, be it of what kind it will, since it is the Authority of the Prince that is made use of in the Execution of an Extent or seizing of a State Criminal; and not the Power of the Subject, who has the Commission or Warra. in trust: So that the Oppress'd ought not to suffer any Loss; but the Officers, who go beyond their Order: If these Arguments are not granted, it overturns all Rule and Order in any Government, and assigns the Royal Prerogative to the King's Servants, to act at their Will and Pleasure, without Controul: If I err in my Judgment in this Point I ask pardon for the Mistake on so abstruse and important a Head.

My way of writing is to express what I think my Adversaries will plead for themselves, if ever call'd to an Account. It has been reported, That the Honourable Board of Commissioners made a Proposal to me for an Accommodation: I confess I was offer'd a small Composition; but should I take it, at that very instant Government would expire. No Man is oblig'd by the Laws of this Land, to surrender up his Effects at Will, and to receive part back again in exchange for the whole.

In a free State, I have the same Title to my Possessions, as an Imperial Monarch has to his Empire; and 'tis Death by the Laws of all Civiliz'd Nations, only to attempt an Invasion upon the Prince's Prerogative. As I look upon those Statutes for the Sovereign's Security, to be absolutely necessary in every Monarchy; so I think I have a Right by my Birth, to be protected from the Destroyer, in Cases that can only be decided by the Judgment of the Prince and the Ministry; which is the very nature of the Point now in Debate: The Matter is so clear, that it does not Call for a Consultation of the Twelve Judges, nor the Verdict of a Special Jury.

There are Men that boast, as if the Paragraph taken from the Speech made in the House of Commons December 5th 1717-18, by Edward Jefferys, Esq; was a true Prophecy. He says, "That Bodies Political as well as Natural have their Periods; Governments must dye as well as Men: Ours is grown Old and Crazy; and altho' she has surviv'd her Neighbour's, yet I fear her Day is approaching. I desire that Gentleman's Opinon may prove Erroneous, and never come so pass till the fixed Stars fall from their High Orbs."

The use I shall make of that Member of Parliament's Expression is, to give in the Idea I have of Slavery; which is of two sorts: My Bondage is of the first Magnitude; the Rod's upon my Back, and the Lyon in my House; I am crush'd and devour'd by a Command from Authority: The other Slavery is, when the Dragon is not yet enter'd to execute his Fury, but has a power to do it at will: I'll give an Instance to support my Arguments.

The French Constitution is as much at an end, as it was in the last Reign; tho' the Usurpation is not by the present King exercis'd, as it was by his Grandfather; yet from the Day the Power became irresistible; the French are Slaves. One Subject's Right given up, may put a Period to all Freedoms and Charters. I must thus defend the Cause of my Sovereign and the Ministry now at the Helm of Government, and Plead for the Right of every Subject, that he may not be eaten up or exacted upon in the payment of Taxes by any Arbitrary Commissioners or their

their inferiour Agents: There's no true Patriot but will joyn with me in this very Article. The expressing my self thus, may be of great use to the whole Nation, and make some Men act with more Caution towards their Fellow-Subjects, to keep within the bounds of the Law.

I can say, there was no Breach made upon England's Liberty in this Reign till the late unparalell'd Judgment was executed (by virtue of the Commissioners new Law) upon my Estate and Goods; and I believe that Act would be immediately abolish'd, was the News to come to the King's Ear; or if any Member of Parliament, would be pleas'd of his own accord, to give in Copies of this Treatise to the House of Commons, to be perus'd and consider'd by that Great Assembly. Then it would be no pain to me (tho' I am Confin'd) to recruit my self, by getting in Publick Collections, for what I have Suffer'd by this bitter Inquisition: I want to have Justice done upon the Transgressors of our good Laws; it will give great content to the whole Body of the People.

By the small knowledge I have in Politicks it appears to be the Custom of other Nations, that as soon as any Subject proves his Property to be infring'd, the Chain is immediately taken off, otherwise there is but a melancholy View, 'tis then in vain for a Man to withstand Commissioners or other Officers that act illegally, better things are thought of those that now Rule at the Helm of our Government.

In Queen Mary I's Reign, when only one or two Persons were persecuted at her Will, or by Order of any Magistrate she favour'd, what was the fate of those that Petition'd to have Relief? Goals or Death were the Penance: When the first Church was shut up, and the first Divine Suffer'd; if any Subject spoke against the Decree he run the Risk of being undone Body and Estate. It is a dangerous Attempt for a single Man to strive against Authority and Power, tho' it be in a mild Administration. I shall towards the End of this Discourse give an Instance of it from my own sad Experience.

For my Part, I dare not venture again to Wage Law with the Mighty; and for me to bring Actions against the Indigent Officers that ruin'd me by Authority given them by the Commissioners, is to make a further Devastation upon my self: For when my Money is spent in Prosecuting those poor Wretches, they are fled; like Harwood the late Assessor, or ordered to be Transported as Felons for the Robbery; Is that any Satisfaction for my Dammage? As for the Commissioners they defend the Suit at the King's Charge, and I can't recover any Fines of them: They plead that my Cash is apply'd to Publick uses, as the former Assessors did for the Land Tax; so I shall be ground to pieces as between two Mill-stones. Small Rivulets are not of force to turn the Rapid Streams of Great Rivers, nor the Floods of hasty Showers prevent the Ebbing of the vast Ocean. The Commissioners (as was but now intimated) have the Crown's Money to support their Servants Proceedings, that's an inexhaustible Stock; my Coffers are rifled by their Agents. I will speak openly, it ought to be set down in particular Characters, upon the Pillars of the three Exchanges: I was told by Mr. Townsend one of the Commissioners at a full Board, I must recover my Satisfaction from the very Men, that demolish'd my Estate by their Command; but at the same time they refus'd to Refund what was taken from me, tho' then in their present Possession. Such jugling Evasions

Evasions are too great a Stain upon Government to be conceal'd; there's no Minister of State will defend such Practices. I shall bring in one Instance that will set Matters right.

If I am robb'd in my House or in the Street, and the Thieves pay the Cash into the Bank of *England*: It is true, I cannot by Law come upon the Governours or Directors of the said Bank: But should I tell them the story, and they refuse to return my Money at the first Request, (was it in their Power, and with safety to be done) the World would look upon them, I will not say as Confederates in the Act; but as guilty of a Deed of the highest Injury and Oppression.

I here appeal to the Collective Body of the People, whether it is not very afflicting for me to be rent to pieces by an Arbitrary Power, and then bid to take my Course with the Government; or to come upon poor Officers for fulfilling the Will of their Masters: such Pretences are but a sort of Resolution, to do no Justice at all, or as a Decoy to draw the Oppressed into Law-suits that the excessive Charges, may throw him into a Prison to Rot there; that Stratagem shall not take in this Case. If the Commissioners believe I have done them Wrong in speaking the truth, and they are willing to turn Plaintiffs, I am ready to become the Defendant: It will then visibly appear by the Evidence of their and my Witnesses, whether I have writ one Article that is not real Fact, and for the Interest of every Subject in *England* to peruse, that is for keeping his own Right and Property against an Invasion from Men put in trust to Act as Stewards to Collect in the Crown Revenues. If the whole matter was set out in a Court of Judicature, where Affidavits might be made; it would give great light to the Subject: None would for the future patiently take the spoiling of his Goods and Possessions contrary to Law, tho' it were done by Men in the highest Station or Post of Profit.

All that love Liberty, will be for taking off the heavy Burden, that is now put upon my Shoulders, and lament the loss of that one Freedom; not upon my account, but for their own Security. *Englishmen* are never content with Slavery, the terror of it loads the Mind, tho' it is seen only in *Effgie*: But here *Magna Charta* is taken away by force, without a Pattern or Example; and in such a Rage, That was a Description to be now given of the *Greecian* Captives taken by the *Turks*, at the Surrender of *Constantinople*; the loss of Property could not be much better set forth than the Devastation made upon my Estate under Colour of Protection from the Sovereign, and the Statutes made by the Three Estates of the Realm.

This Plot shall Vye with the Ryot in *Salisbury*-Court, for which five Persons suffer'd Death in *Fleetstreet*: The Fury of that mad Multitude joyn'd in one Crowd, seem'd to shew more pity to their Enemy, and did not make such an entire Spoil, as is to be seen upon my Possessions. It is some Pleasure to me, that several Persons of Honour, were pleas'd out of Curiosity to come to my House, and behold the strange Prospect: Their Opinion is, this Domestick Destruction is a Ryot, an Insurrection and a Robbery; the Words are Natural, tho' they sound harsh.

In the Life time of *Lewis*, 14th. some foreign Writers have thought fit to mark down in the Margin of their works, that Prince a Tyrant; our Historians may now very Judiciously place in the Table of their Volumes. The Secret Extent Plot, an Usurpation. The

The Proceedings were contrary to all Honour, good Nature, or Honesty; a breach of Trust and sacred Oaths: Men that serve the Crown, swear as solemnly to be just to the Subject, as true to the Sovereign: 'Tis as great violation to steal out of the Purse of a private Man, as it is to rob the King's Treasury with the dash of a Pen.

These Notes are enter'd with such Reflections, in defence of the Sovereign's Security, that no Man's Substance for the future, may ever be seiz'd upon, and carry'd off, with such open and daring tokens of a Despotick Power, that seems to strike at once to destroy the very foundation of the *British* Constitution.

It must pass, if what is now spoke of is a Crime, till these Articles can be fairly deny'd. I shall look upon the Title I have to any thing, tho' tis sign'd and seal'd, and has the Sanction of a Law, to be only as Images painted on the Wall, pleasing Amusements, like the fair Apples of *Sodom*, beautiful to behold on the Tree; but touch them they are rotten, and turn to Ashes.

The Reasoning is clear, for the New Law-givers, may (from the same Rule as before) send their Agents again to my House, to morrow, or next day, and take the Cloaths from off my Back, or the Deeds and Writings out of my Scrutore, or even any thing else that I have still left to give up, or part with in the World.

I am so very particular in these my Observations, that *England* may not now lose the native Beauty, she attain'd at the Revolution; nor the Glory she got in the late great Victory over the new *Spanish* Armado. Should not this Arbitrary Law be extinguish'd by another Act of Government from the Superior Authority: What are Charters and Privileges worth, if the Secret Extent Statute is not Censur'd and Condemn'd by the whole Legislature; as I am certain it will, if ever this Treatise is brought into Parliament by any of the Leaders of that August Senate, a few Lines may serve to adjust all these Debates, and set my Arguments upon this Head in perfect Light, where Men are not Slaves in Principle.

Here shall be added an Example of Heroick Order, or a Manifesto that pass'd in a Publick Council, upon the Debate of an Arbitrary Power set up by Men put into Commission to Collect the Publick Revenues.

"A Roman Gentleman, (when the Farmers of the Taxes had gone beyond their Commission, and acted contrary to the Custom of the Republick) Complain'd to the Senate, at *Rome* of the Outrage; one of the Senators mov'd to put off the Hearing till next Council-Day: it was answer'd by the whole Body of Senators, if that were done, and no Order sent to imprison the Farmers of the Taxes, more Ravage would be made, whereby it might indanger the State, from the Report, that the Rights of the People of *Rome*, were given up by the Consent of the Government.

This is a great Example, first of the Conduct of the *Roman* Gentlemen, in appealing to the Government; and then a Glorious Instance in the Senate of *Rome* to lay down such a Curious Plan of Equity in the Administration. One such Act in Potentates appears in the Eye of the People truly Magnificent, and gains the Love and the Heart of the Subject, beyond what is almost to be express'd or thought of. This was the Issue I expected to see from the writing of this Piece.

It was a fix'd Maxim among the antient *Egyptians*, " That when one Man's Property was taken away or infring'd against Law, the whole Body of the People were threaten'd with Danger: The Command that orders one illegal Act to be committed, can at pleasure Seize upon any Man's Inheritance, and take away his Effects, without giving any other Reason why 'tis done, than Imperious Frowns of Disdain. That very Treatment was my Lot, when I went to the New Law-givers to Complain of my Wrong, and to ask for the return of my own Just Right.

It is interpreted in the Terms of War, that when a Governour delivers up the Gate of a City to an Enemy that besieges it, the giving possession of that Post yields up the whole Place as a Conquest. This single Argument I take to be sufficient to confirm all that I have yet laid down, to prove that if any one Tyrannical Act is tolerated in a State or Province, every Subject's Right is sacrific'd or at least must be parted with at the first Summons or Demand, he receives from an Inferiour Officer pretending to be sent to him with a Commission,

Usurpation arises either from Pride or Avarice, that soon encreases to an Infection, and spreads as the Plague, till the Contagion becomes Universal. There's no need to go to other Nations for Presidents, we have Examples in our own Country. In the last Century, some of our Imperious Politicians broke in upon the Laws: The first step then made did the Work, had not one Round been fix'd, there would have been no ascending to pull down the Constitution.

King *Charles I.* had the advice of his Council to raise Ship-Money, and his Son *James II.* the Opinion of the Judges, before he took Possession of *Magdalen College* in *Oxford*; both those Potent Monarchs lost their Crowns: But Money is exacted from me, without the knowledge of the Sovereign, the Ministry, or the Sages at Law: So that I should betray the whole Constitution to be Dumb here; because this New Statute is more Arbitrary than any former Proceedings; and should it go off conceal'd, the Subject may soon become Tributary to the Inferiour Servants of the Administration, at their Will and Pleasure, which absolutely resigns all claim to Liberty and Property. I say so much of the Commissioners Inquisition, to keep other Men from meeting with my Fate. This small Tract may be an instrument to save the Subject from the Power of the Lion and the Dragon: For I can say the Tyranny and Usurpation inflict'd upon me, is little less than to be torn in Pieces by the Wild and Savage Beasts of the Woods and Deserts.

My Case is come to this Crisis, that I must either chuse to sink in Ruin, or venture to speak in an uncommon way: A true Patriot will never submit to such Pressures but upon force; or conceal his Thoughts, only when the Cause is desperate, and under deplorable Circumstances; or in points that the lesser Evil is to be chose; there he is Speechless and Passive.

Whatever may be the Thoughts on these Principles, they are the Revolution-Doctrine, and what was constantly maintain'd by the Defenders of *England's Liberties*. It is the Ground-work of the Articles that brought over our happy Deliverer of Glorious Memory, and broke

broke off the heavy Links of Bondage: It is the very Column of the Resolves of all our good Parliaments, and the standing Opinion of those worthy Senators, who pass'd the Act for establishing the Succession in the present Line. In defence of all these innumerable advantages, particularly to Secure that inestimable Jewel of Right and Property; the Nation begun and carry'd on two tedious Wars, which expended near a Hundred Millions of *English Money*, with a Sea of Christian Blood, since that memorable Year 88. Deny it who can, that this is the Basis upon which our present Monarch lays Claim to his Royal Title to the *British Throne*, and the *English* are become his Subjects by the Tenour of our Statutes.

It was Father *Peters* and the Chancellor *Jeffery's* violating the Laws of the Land, that occasion'd the Abdication of King *James II.* and oblig'd that Prince to live and dye in Exile: I rehearse this to save my Native Country from undergoing such another Change, or rather dreadful Convulsion, that threaten'd our most Holy Religion and Civil State with an entire Subversion: I can scarce imagine that the Commissioners will be let alone to create any future Discontents by the continuation of their violent Proceedings against other Subjects.

The Zeal of many Honourable Gentlemen that now sit at the Helm of Government is still remember'd: When the Liberty of any Subject was but in the least attack'd in the last four Years of Queen *Anne*, they valu'd themselves in Pleading upon such Occasions in the Houses of Parliament, and at the Head of private Councils: What may be said for silence upon my delivering in to the Ministry an account of the Arbitrary Judgment executed upon me? It can be taken only that some emergent Business of State entirely put the thoughts of it out of Mind: Since never any Subject, either in King *James's* or Queen *Anne's* Reign was suffer'd to be thus Ransack'd so near the Metropolitan City of the Nation, and even in the very Eye of the Court; and the Government to shew an absolute neglect of the Petitions put up to have the outrageous Act suppress'd.

The gain of the Prize taken out of my Hands cannot much enrich the Crown, tho' the loss to me is insupportable. I desire my Misfortune may never come to draw any Cloud of Darknes over the *British Horizon*, nor fully that Constitution which is now call'd in *Europe*, The Chief Protector of the Liberties of Princes and States.

It will be a Narrative of great variety, to give in the Discoveries made of the Commissioners Conduct. I can now present the Reader with abundance of fresh Matter, relating to the Management in Laying and Carrying on the whole Design of the Secret-Extent Plot. Take it all in a piece, it is a kind of Tragi-Comedy, to please or affect a mixt Audience: I believe to a wise Man, one Page will lay open the mysterious Intrigues, and shew the intention of every Plotter engag'd in the several Acts. The Performance presents that the Actors were either Confounded by a fatal Sentence; or that it was an Invention, to kindle Flames of Discontent in the Breast of the Populace, to the Joy of the King's Enemies, and the Trouble of his best Subjects. The particulars of this Account have been Collected from Memoirs taken by Examination and Confession of Witnesses, and from the Information and Advice of Friends: The Title is,

The Black List of 31 Articles.

Art. I. The first Step the Plotters advanc'd in their Scheme, is, they were so far infatuated by the Spirits of Darknes, That they took upon them to receive of Mr *Smith* my Tenant, all the Money he ow'd to the King, within One Pound Sixteen Shillings, Eleven Pence Three Farthings; this is an *Index* of a Secret Contrivance laid to stain the Character of the Administration, which I tender as my Life.

Art. II. The next Progress the Plotters went upon: Three Days after they had taken Mr *Smith's* Cash, and given a Receipt for it; they mounted the Stage to act the Black Part. They came to my House, and there seiz'd upon the said *Smith's* Goods; and to be quick in Shifting the Scenes, *Graham* the head Tragedian order'd three Baggs and a half of Hops, (a good Booty upon which he had fix'd the Broad Arrow) to be immediately Loaded and Carry'd off from the Premises, which said Hops alone were sufficient to discharge and satisfy near Twenty times the Sum the said *Smith* had left unpaid. But to give the Plotters the Scope of the wildest Demands they could be ambitious of: Admit that the Twenty Two Pounds, Two Shillings Eleven Pence, Three Farthings, growing due, had been then payable as it was not till the expiration of fourteen Days; the said Hops would have discharged that very Debt also and all Expences: But the Plotters to be certain of Treasure enough, at the same time took possession of Fifty Pounds worth more of the said *Smith's* Goods; and he the said *Smith* on the other side, offer'd to deliver up to them, at that very moment, all he had in the World (if desir'd) for the use of the King, which was very Considerable. This can be prov'd Fact by several Witnesses. Now enters the Hainous Story in the following Articles.

Art. III. Here the new Arbitrary Law was begun to be put in Execution upon my Estate: After what is mention'd in the preceding Article was thus acted; and the Plotters had seiz'd and sent away so great a Booty of Goods as a Security and Pledge, which would abundantly more than answer all Demands and Charges whatever, that could be requir'd, tho' ever so unreasonable; the Head Tragi-Comedian with his Company, after this and not before, went upon his Second Act, to destroy and rear to pieces my Possessions. If the Philosophy of the Commissioners can make it appear, that this is not Felony in the very Abstract, I'll be content to bear the Load of Infamy they are Stain'd with by the Publick Censure for suffering such an Outrage to go one Day unrepair'd. I'll tack to this Article the Justice of an Arbitrary Foreign Prince: "A late General in *Muscovy*, was made a Commissioner or Inspector of one Branch of the Publick Revenues: Upon Information and Proof, that he had gone farther than his Power directed in oppressing the Subject; he was Sentenc'd to dye in this Year, 1718, and by the Emperor's Special Command, Shot to death, by the Soldiers of his own Regiment. The offer that General made, to give Restitution was rejected; his Life must fall as an Atonement for the Crime. I put in this remarkable Instance of Punishment, to deter Men from the breach of Laws upon their Fellow-

low-Subjects; to the great Dishonour of the Sovereign, or the State they serve under.

Art. IV. It was certainly Decreed, that the Plotters should enhance their own Guilt, in the Face of the Publick: As soon as they found their vile Proceedings were detected; I can prove that to acquit themselves they feign'd this wicked Plea, and said they had taken and sent away Mr *Smith* my Tenant's Hops, with a view to keep me from seizing on them for Rent, and not with design to sell them, to pay the King's Revenues. Should this Evasion, I was going to say Chear, take in *England*, and be let go off unpunish'd; Then I'll venture to bid farewell to Liberty and Property, and all that is dear and valuable in this beautiful Island; But certainly this sort of Artifice will be enquir'd into by the King, the Parliament and the Ministry; since the Matter is now made so clear to the Publick. If these four Articles are not true, I desire to be ston'd as an incorrigible Wretch.

Art. V. By the Tenour of the preceding Practices, it looks as if the Plotters, after they were betray'd in their Designs, joyn'd in a Confederacy with Mr *Smith* my Tenant, in expectation he might be an Evidence to bring them off: For it will be prov'd by two succeeding Articles. That they presented him with several Considerable Sums of my Money to reimburse him of a Debt he had formerly paid to the Crown, and to discharge him from another Debt that was growing due from him for the King's Revenues. And the said Mr *Smith*, to be grateful, seem'd to assist his Majesty's Officers, in taking away the Gleanings they would have carry'd off, had not their Intrigues been blown up by the Confession of one of their own Company; That they had no Warrant to Authorize their Proceedings: So that the whole Contrivance appears in every Circumstance, to be only a Complication of Knavery, I may very Justly say, a Publick Robbery: For among those Champions of Iniquity, that even exceed that famous *Whitney*, they stript my Estate as clean, as a Female Thief does a Child of its Cloaths, takes away every Rag, and leaves the Creature stark naked.

Art. VI. To shew that the most Civiliz'd Act, was a Trick, or a genteel piece of Cozenage, the King's Officers demanded by his Majesty's Authority, and in the Name of the Commissioners Threescore Pounds of my Money, to be paid down for the use of the Crown, to satisfy *Smith's* Debt, after it was actually discharged twenty-fold by their own Seizure, and the Goods sent away by their Order: I must tell of this Evil, to give the Government timely notice lest it should grow fragrant, and other Subjects be ruin'd by their Tyrannical Power.

I'll now bring another instance of Exemplary Justice, tho' the injur'd Person was a Courtizan: One of the Harlots at *Venice* deliver'd a Petition to the Dogue, complaining of Two Officers that had extorted from her a Duckēt more than she was oblig'd to pay, by the Custom of the Commonwealth for keeping the Publick Stews: The Senate appointed the Money to be return'd to the Impious Woman, and the Extortioners were put out of their Post they held in being Collectors of that Branch of the Revenues, and made for ever incapable of bearing any other Office in the State. It is very material to introduce the customary Practices of foreign Nations, that cause Restitution to be made for Injuries, even in Cases of the least Moment.

Art. VII.

Art. VII. Here the Plotters were very right in their Notion; they Committed their Outrages in my absence: Their Cunning was also remarkable; they did their Work with great Expedition, and refus'd (tho' desir'd) to stop the Progress of their Ravage for two or three Hours: They knew that delay might have Sapp'd their whole Invention, and been the Occasion of their Immediate Defeat. My Estate was plunder'd and destroy'd the first Day, out of my sight, without any Notice given me by the Commissioners: Had that been done, I should rather have paid a sum of Money in my own wrong, than be oblig'd (as I am) to speak thus of the Conduct of Men now employ'd by the Government: They cast a blemish upon the Administration: I will keep up to maintain that Right, as I am an *English* Subject, and have a valuable regard to the Glory of the *British* Legislature; their Prerogative and Power are here struck at.

Art. VIII. It is an ancient saying, *That the Wicked seldom continue Wise long*; it was so here; for the Plotters soon discover'd their Weakness; They being requir'd to produce the Authority that empower'd them to Act after such sort of Ways; had not the sense to shew any Commission or Warrant; either new or old, to bring them out of the Labyrinth; but this they did with much Bravery: They Bully'd the Person who ask'd them to produce their Power, and threaten'd that Sir *William Ashurst*, one of the Gentlemen at the Board, should throw him into Prison for his Insolence in putting the Question. What a State of Misery are we come to, if this New-invented Inquisition be not reduc'd by some Publick Declaration, to make the Subjects sit easy in the Possession of their Estates?

Art. IX. The Plotters will appear still more visible in their Native Colours; no Skreen can now shelter them. When they had Carry'd off my Tenant's Goods, as the first Prize, and made their second seizure upon me, and run away with my Effects also, to a great value; the Gentlemen came again, the very next Day for a third Booty; expecting (as is suppos'd) that I was gone in search after them, or to make my Complaint to the Lords of the Treasury, of the inhumane Act: But I was then at home, and conceal'd my self for some time, to be inform'd by my Servants, what they said and how they proceeded in their strange Work. When they had begun their Labour with great Heat, and were enter'd to Compsas my utter Ruin; I went out, and as it happen'd; heard them name every particular Piece of my fix'd Utensils, they had before left standing, and then intended to tear up, and carry away at that time: I keep the Inventory upon the File: I'll now appeal to the Collective Body of the Nation, that had I no other Article but this single one, to prove against the Commissioners, whether it is to be tolerated in any Government. For they justify'd the Act, and peremptorily refus'd to make the least Restitution, no Subject can endure this sort of Oppression.

If the Ministry are silent in this affair, till the Parliament meets, I shall yield to that Severity and resist no further, only try, Whether there is an *English-man* in this Nation, that will not voluntarily Subscribe something to this Tract, towards the repairing of my Loss by the Excise Inquisition. It is interwoven in my Nature, to speak thus freely in a Point that gives every man Jealousy, when he sees such a visible Violation committed. My Goods are still kept from me; and my Estate

state Eyes yet Waste, not as a Place where the Kings Officer's us'd to make a Distress; but like a House Demolish'd by a Mob, or miserably dammag'd by Fire.

Here I shall enter a Remark of what Equity was observ'd in Government, in the most early Ages of the World: A Native of *Egypt* between the City of *Memphus* and the River *Nile*, was banish'd that Land by the King's express Decree; only for giving his Vote to elect a Person Ruler of a Province, who had exacted Imposts from an *Egyptian* Peasant contrary to the Laws of the State. I bring in this Act for it's great Antiquity, to convince the People, how necessary it is to inflict severe Punishment even upon those that only Plead in defence of an Arbitrary Lawgiver.

Art. X. This Article requires particular Notice: When these desperate Proceedings of the Officers, in both the Days-Work were laid before the Commissioners at their Board: I here declare it solemnly, That the said Commissioners did but mock at my Complaint, and jest upon my Calamity; particularly Mr. *Townsend*: When I told that Gentleman, I would Print my Case, and do my self and the Subject Justice; he laugh'd out right, and said, *Hah! hah! then you'd turn Bookseller*; a wise Sentence for a Lawgiver. I rehearse it, that no Man for the future, may be rifled of his Fortune; and when he demands Relief, be sent away with a Banter to beg his Bread: So long as I see my Enemy Reign thus in Power, to do me mischief, and at liberty to destroy others at Will; I shall write to put the King, the Parliament and the Ministry in mind of this inglorious Act: such Pieces openly Publish'd and handed about the Nation, will effectually keep an arbitrary sway out of the private Consults of the Crown-Officers; and maintain to the whole Legislature, the Honour due to them as the true Defenders of Liberty and Property.

My Thoughts are, that no *Briton* will give in his Vote to defend an Act that thus impedes the free execution of Government. Every one expects to enjoy his own, without being Tenant at Pleasure to any new Arbitrary Law-givers. Property is the Kingdom's Regent-Star; it is to secure and save the Subject from the Injuries and Attempts of the Violent.

Art. XI. As the matters now in dispute are not Trifles, I can't omit one thing, because 'tis a Material Head: Two Months before the Judgment was executed upon me, a Gentleman is ready to testify, he desir'd one of the Commissioners to take care of Mr. *Smith* my Tenant, and to secure the King's Tax from him; he being the only Person from whom it was payable: But this timely notice avail'd nothing, I was the Man pointed at to pay the Score a Hundred-Fold; that I might be sent like our first Parent *Adam*, to wander about upon the Mountains, to seek for Subsistence among the Inhabitants of the Dens, or to be fed by the Ravens of the Air, a Maintenance only for Hermits of a Stedfast Faith.

Art. XII. Upon the first notice I receiv'd at *London*, that the Officers of the Crown in my absence had seiz'd and destroy'd the greatest part of my Estate for another Man's Debt; of One Pound, Sixteen Shillings, Eleven Pence, Three Farthings; I immediately (even before I came Home) went to Sir *Marmaduke Wyvell* one of the Commissioners, and acquainted him with the Affair: I entreated his Honour only to give his Letter, that my Goods, (if not carry'd off before my Arrival) should

should not be removed from the Premises, till the matter came to be heard the next Morning, before the Board; but that reasonable Request was deny'd. Had the favour been granted, the inglorious Act of the second Day's seizure would have been prevented; but the Intention was to devour me, and to get my Substance into possession. I shall add what an Ingenious Painter thought fit to draw out in a Square of Canvas: "At Grand Cairo in Egypt, in one of the Old Palaces, there was represented in an History-Piece, a *Bassa* or *Aga* of the *Jamisaries* courting a poor young Virgin: One of the Labels set about the Figures, was *The beautiful Maid refus'd to comply with his Request, upon account that he had obtain'd his Riches, by racking the People in collecting the Publick Taxes*: Tho' this Picture should only be the product of the Painter's Fancy; yet the Moral of it may serve to shew by way of Emblem, the aversion all Subjects ought to have against the Act of Usurpation, whether under the Administration of Believers or Infidels.

Art. XIII. After I had seen an end of the two Days Work perform'd by the Crown Officers, I was resolv'd to make all things clear upon my account, and to put it out of the power of the Commissioners to Plead a Word of Truth to the Ministry in their own defence. As to the Question, Whether the Estate was mine or Mr. Smith's? I carry'd my Writings to the Board of Commissioners to shew them the real Title I had to my Estate: But that Deed was not look'd upon of any value, nor could prevail to obtain any Favour.

I'll deliver in the Sense of a *British* Senator, spoke in the House of Commons: "So long (said he) as any one Arbitrary Act goes off without the notice of the Administration, so long the whole Constitution is suspended, or at least at the mercy of those who are arm'd with Power.

I believe every Member of Parliament will stand up, and give in the same Vote; It is no Party-Debate, nor can make a Division in either House; all are for Liberty and Property. As to the reason why I insist so long on this particular Head; it is the great Zeal I bear to his most excellent Majesty, as believing that His Sacred Person is altogether unacquainted with this Affair.

Art. XIV. Were not the Work I am now upon very weighty and what calls for a sedate Discourse; I should entertain the Reader with a kind of Riddles difficult to be known or understood: However, some few of the most serious of the Debates of the Commissioners and their Agents shall be now crowded in.

One of those new Law-givers order'd a Letter to be writ to me. The chief Contents of the Epistle treat of Tendernefs; and the Author of it says, "The Will of the Honourable Commissioners is, that I should have the return of the Over-plus of the Money my Goods were sold for. Hypocrisy us'd to be counted an Act that devours Widows Houses; here is an Evasion to deceive a Subject with a bare Face: For the conscientious Commissioner now spoke of, chang'd his good Intentions, and order'd the Over-plus of my Cash to be giv'n my Tenant

Tenant *Smith*, that had no more Right to it, than he and the rest of his Brethren had a Title to vindicate their Officers, in the open breach of Laws. The Pharisaical Letter I receiv'd is fill'd up with the other particular Accounts that came to my Hands; I reserve them as Relicks.

Art. XV. To change the Scene, as they do in Plays: Another of the Commissioners gave it out as his profound Opinion, that I ought to punish their Officers who were the Transgressors, and not trouble them. What Man living can tamely submit to this last Injunction? By whom I pray must Restitution be made? Is it to be out of the Hands of the Commissioners who receiv'd my Goods and Money into their possession, and justify'd the Act; or from their poor Officers that have not kept back one spell of the Plunders. The miserable Wretches are at Command to do whatever is order'd, be it good or evil; or otherwise they must lose their daily Bread. I lament the Dishonour this sort of Dealing brings upon the Government. Their high Reputation ought to be taken care of in particular, lest the common Enemy lay hold of such an Opportunity to bring an *Odium* upon the Conduct of the present just Administration.

Art. XVI. To begin another Article: In the sequel of the Controversy among the Commissioners, one of them thought, that Mr. *Smith's* Malt and strong Beer might have been accepted to satisfy the King's Revenues, but that honest Motion was dash'd at once. Another Commissioner was pleas'd to answer, That those sorts of Goods were not to be taken as Payment; but that my Effects must answer my Tenant's Debts. These are the Chimes that went round: I my self, with some of my Friends were before the Commissioners at their Board, when the learned Debates were set forth; we minuted them down as *Memorandum's*. If I had heard such Discourses in a Theater, I should have been mightily diverted; but as they pass'd among Arguments of State Business, I thought they were too light, and had something in them of the Gaiety of a Poet, to entertain an Audience.

Art. XVII. In this sort of Way matters were carry'd on, tho' the Pretences were too Fine and Chimerical to be maintain'd. One of the Commissioners (in my Hearing) ask'd *Graham* the chief Agent, Why he did not take Mr. *Smith's* Horses as Payment? He reply'd upon the Question, That Mr. *Bamford*, the Head Collector for the County of *Middlesex* bid him seize upon my Effects. There is no need of any Reflection upon this Article, more than a particular Note on *Graham's* Conduct, that expert Tragy-Comedian confess'd he was order'd to execute the Extent upon my Estate, to pay the King's Revenues: But he acted two ways, first he took into Possession *Smith's* Goods, and immediately sent away more than answer'd all Demands that could be made, which was a publick Breach of the Precept given him by Mr. *Bamford*. And after that the said *Graham*, (when there was no Reckoning at all left to Pay upon account of the Publick Tax) fell upon Plundering my Effects: This made the whole to be a dark Story, and occasion'd a mixture of Distraction in the Debates. I compar'd it to the noise and confusion of Languages, at the building of *Babel*; and Pray'd that the arbitrary Proceedings of the New Law-givers, might have the same Issue, to the entire Satisfaction of every Subject that values his own Liberty and Property.

Art. XVIII. Let an Act be of the deepest Dye, I see Innocence is generally Pleaded; Mr. Bamford being in Company with a Gentleman of my acquaintance, took the freedom to tell him, with an austere Countenance, *That he had done according to Directions, and was sure he was safe.* It is but reasonable, (in my Opinion) that Mr. Bamford should be oblig'd to tell from whom he receiv'd that Original Order, which was capable to acquit or defend him against the Guilt of such an Act as *Graham* the Officer charg'd him with before the Honourable Commissioners and in my presence.

I observ'd that among all the Disputes and Queries that pass'd at their Board upon this Occasion; neither any of the New Lawgivers nor *Graham* spoke one Word of the great quantity of Hops, he the said *Graham* had fixt the Broad Arrow upon, and sent them away by his own Order, before my Estate was ransack'd, and my Goods carry'd off the Premises. As, (at the writing of the first Paper) I was ignorant of that momentous Point, which very much aggravates all the Proceedings; a serene Silence was observ'd on all sides: It was by meer Accident that this material part of the Story came to my Ear; Since many things on that score are yet kept private that I know nothing of.

But here shall be set down a nice *Memorandum*; it is worth notice: When *Graham* found that the sending away three Bags and a half of Hops, (that clear'd all Accounts) was discover'd; and that thereby the Commissioners might lose their Places, if it should come to the knowledge of the Government; he return'd to Mr. *Smith* my Tenant all his said Hops again, and Pleaded he did it only to prevent his Creditors from seizing on them.

This Act ought to be register'd upon the Rol of Infamy; for it cannot be Presidented in any of the Books that treat of the Affairs of Government. Was it ever known in any Nation that Commissioners acting in the Name of their Sovereign seiz'd and carry'd off for the King's Revenues, the Goods of the Person that ow'd the Money, which were Sufficient to answer all Demands; and then proceeded to destroy the Possessions of a Stranger, for the same Debt? And afterwards in hopes to save them from exemplary Punishment or Disgrace, deliver'd back those very Effects taken from the real Debtor, and Sold the Stranger's Goods to satisfy the said Debt? If this Action is to pass off with Impunity; then I cannot but persuade myself, that every Man of Principle will contribute towards repairing this my unexpected Loss, when I wait upon him for his Subscription.

Art. XIX. To go on with the Relation: Mr. *Lamb* the Office-Keeper at *St. Jones*, being one concern'd in the first Day's Work, Pleading in defence of the Crime, told me, "The King was sufficient to acquit them against any Subject that should offer to begin a Prosecution for what had been acted by Order of the Commissioners."

It cannot be thought but that some private Assurances must have been given, to protect these Men throughout all the Changes of the confused Designs; yet it is daring to bring in the Sovereign as engag'd to vindicate their Rapine and Violence.

Art. XX. Now that the Plot may be memorable, and to shew that such a private Contrivance was never laid *ab antiquo*; here's an account of the distribution of some part of the Cash rais'd out of the Sale of my Goods: It was divided into Lots or Shares; Some great Prizes some Small. The first Lot was Twenty Pounds, that was given to my Tenant *Smith*, to reimburse

him of the same Sum he had formerly paid to discharge his own Debt due to the King; this Generosity in the Plotters, was a great Respect shew'd to *Smith*. The Donative is like the common Practice us'd in the Twilight in the Streets of London, "There it frequently happens that one Russian takes a Prize from the Owner, and hands it off to another of his own Tribe; an old Way of Chaffering among Criminals but a New Trade taken up by Men intrusted to Collect in the Publick Taxes."

Art. XXI. The Second lot was the Sum of Twenty two Pounds two Shillings Eleven Pence Three Farthings. This was taken out of my Park, and paid into the Exchequer, to secure a Debt of *Smith's* that was not due till the expiration of Fourteen Days. This is a Mystery within a Mystery; I can't but hint at it, because it may be very injurious to our Excellent Constitution to conceal it: Sure there must be some Gratification for such generous Offerings, pick'd out of another Man's Pocket to set a Crown-Debtor at Liberty. This Proceeding seems to shew (as was before mentioned) that *Smith* and the New Lawgivers Agents had laid a Scheme together, how to settle all these Preliminaries: For among them they made such clear Work upon my Estate, that they did not leave to the value of Six-pence upon my Premises of any sort of Goods or Effects whatsoever; which I set up at my own proper Cost and Charge. The Town is already sensible of my Grievance, as to this intollerable Outrage. The secret Contrivance was thus: The Plotters came the second Day and demanded all the fix'd Utensils they had left behind them the Evening before; and they being betray'd by one of their own Gang, were forc'd to fly with great Precipitation. Then their dear Friend Mr. *Smith* with a strong Body of Reserve, came unexpectedly; and took away the Fragments the Commissioners Agents were disappointed of in their being detected.

Art. XXII. Now to return to the Account of the distribution of my Cash: The third Lot went to pay *Graham* the *Irishman's* Assists for the two Days hard Work in committing Hostilities upon my Premises, and carrying away a great Cargoe of my valuable Effects: This share or portion of Money, the Plotters say, is their Right, earn'd by the sweat of their Brows, and at the risk of their Lives, if a Force had come in, and over-power'd them in the hazardous Attempt.

Art. XXIII. The fourth Lot was to discharge the Hire of the Drays and Carts that carry'd my Goods backwards and forwards from *Hampstead* to *High-gate*, and from *High-gate* to *London*, as Trophies of Honour taken by Spoil. What eclips'd the Solemnity of that Ceremony, was driving the Teams with too much haste, as if every Tree had been a Constable with a Warrant, to seize upon the vile Criminals in their Retreat. Without this and other such like exorbitant Proceedings the New Secret Extent Arbitrary Law, would not have been a Tragi-Comedy, as it really was: There is matter of Sadness and matter of Mirth, in almost all the Intrigues of the King's Officers from the Head to the Foot.

It is no Romance, my Effects were hurry'd away, and shifted from Place to Place. So it is when Houses are broke open, and before the Felons have recover'd themselves of their first Consternation, upon going off with the Booty. Horror will sometimes at sudden Surprizes seize the Spirits of the most desperate and harden'd Wretch, that breaths, or lives upon the Earth.

Art. XXIV. The fifth Lot was to clear off the Appraisers that were sent to and fro, to set an exact Value upon my Effects, instead of *Smith's*. This Portion of Money was entirely thrown away; there was no need to appraise Goods that were stole, and to be sold at any Price rather than fail; that Point will come into Plea presently. Thus Men will act, tho' it even tends to their own Overthrow; and exposes their Superiours to the Censure of the whole Nation.

Art. XXV. The sixth Lot was to pay the Costs of the Information, tho' 'twas laid against *Smith*, and not in my Name. But these Outrages must be, where Arbitrary Laws are Enacted in private Cabals, not by the Command of the State. "At *Agra*, in the Dominions of the Great *Mogul*, in a spacious Hall belonging to one of the Sons of the late Emperor *Aureng-Zeb*, a History-Piece is curiously set out on the Ceiling, in which is represented a Company of inferiour Officers, consulting how to extort Money from the Subject, without the Knowledge of the most High Emperor, or his Ministry. Behind the upper Part of the Table, where the President of the Council sits, there is Painted a Legion of Evil Spirits employ'd in Signing and giving out Commissions and Warrants to act by the Authority and Power of the Prince of Darkness." I'll make no Reflections upon this Curiosity, but leave that to be done by the Judgment of the Ingenious.

Art. XXVI. The seventh Lot paid out of my Cash, was about Thirty Half-Crowns, to discharge the Man that was hir'd to watch my Goods, that they should not be stole away, before the Plotters came to make the total Devastation. I have perus'd the Laws and Customs of many Kingdoms and States; but can't remember I ever read that such Usurpation went off unpunish'd, so long as this Act has done, after due Application to the Higher Powers for Relief.

Art. XXVII. The eighth Lot was given to the Constable of *Highbury*, for his Attendance, tho' he betray'd the whole Plot, and declar'd by his Confession, the entire Gang to be a Company of vile Robbers, stealing in the King's Name. Nor did the said Peace-Officer, (for his Reward) so much as own, that he ever saw any Commission or Warrant to authorize himself, or any other Person in the Proceedings: If he had, certainly the Man, (for his Share of the Cash) might have been so honest as to do his Masters such an extraordinary Piece of Service, at so reasonable a Time of their greatest Extremity: Since the second Day's Work of the Plotters (tho' they were detected) is counted much more infamous than the first Seizure they made upon my Estate, after they had distrain'd my Tenant *Smith's* Goods, and sent them away by their Order and Direction, which fully answer'd all Debts and Demands then due, or becoming payable to the Crown.

Art. XXVIII. The ninth Lot was order'd to be reserv'd in Bank, as Over-plus Money, to be given Mr. *Smith* or any other Person, whom the Sharers of the Spoils should think fit to bestow it on; either for supporting their own Characters, or to answer some other By-*end*. If this Treatise has the fortune to be convey'd into distant Parts beyond the Seas, (as 'tis suppos'd it may) what will the Subjects of other Kingdoms and States say to this Account of the Conduct of the *English* Excise-Commissioners, in dividing another Man's Money into Lots or Shares to pay off their own Bills of Charges, to Men they hir'd to obey their unjust Commands.

Art. XXIX. This Article compar'd with the next, will give the Gentlemen Fame: They sold the whole Booty of my Goods they carry'd away, for less Money by Eight Pounds, than what one Piece of Copper cost at second Hand; tho' the Price of that Metal is so much advanced by the Breach with *Sweden*. The other Effects were all given in, to make it a good Bargain to the Purchaser: I can produce the Copper-Smith and other Persons to prove this Fact.

Art. XXX. Here's an Article that requires Attention; it will live when the Actors are dead. Mr. *Brown*, the City Cryer, has inform'd me of a particular Order he receiv'd from the Commissioners Officers: I have a Certificate under his Hand, to vouch the Truth of it: The said Order was to proclaim the Sale of my Goods at Three Common Markets, which was accordingly obey'd. To shew that this Act must have a Design of Mischief, it was secretly contrived and agreed upon several Days before, That Mr. *Smith* my Tenant should be the fortunate Man to purchase that great Pennyworth: And the better to inable the said *Smith* to do it, the Commissioners or their Agents gave him in Money, and acquitted him of Debts out of my Cash, to the Summ of Forty Three Pounds, Eighteen Shillings, Eleven Pence Half-Penny. The above named Mr. *Brown* affirms, That he over-heard one of the said Commissioners Officers confess, that he had private Reasons for having the Goods cry'd at Three Common Markets. These secret Intrigues thus happily discover'd, sufficiently expose the Vileness of the whole Proceedings.

It is the Judgment of the Learned in the Law, That the Reason of their making such a Publick Proclamation of the Sale of my Goods, was either with an Intent to escape being convicted as Felons, or to incense the Nation against their Sovereign, by telling the Town and Country, That the Goods taken away from the Subject, without Authority of any Statute-Law, were to be sold by the Commissioners that act under the Crown. The City-Cryer declares he never had any President of the like Nature, since he came into his Office. It is evident there was no Occasion to call out in the Streets of *London*, for Chapmen to purchase so good a Bargain: Copper is ready Money at all Times, even to its full Value. But 'tis certain there can never want Buyers, when it is sold at an Under-Rate, and Cart-Loads of other Goods thrown in over and above, as a Free Gift. Such as desire it, may be further satisfy'd at Mr. *Brown's* House in *Fore-Street*, by *London-Wall*; there they may see the Commissioners-Officers Order enter'd in his common Diary, dated *March 17, 1717-18*. The next and last Article, will make but a poor Appearance in behalf of the Commissioners, tho' it represents them as Men willing to make all Accounts even.

Art. XXXI. On *May* the third last, I receiv'd a Letter, (which I can produce) from Mr. *Barnford* the Commissioners Head Collector for the County of *Middlesex*, with an Offer to pay me about Nine Shillings per Cent. for Two Thousand One Hundred Pounds; which is the Summ I shall lose, if my demolished Premises are not put into their Original Order, by the Subscriptions I am now to make for this Treatise. 'Tis a very remarkable Proposal, to patch up an Account of so great Concern, a cheap way of Trafficking in the World. Besides, I have some Jealousy that the Money offer'd me, was the ninth Lot taken out of my own Bank; which if it be, aggravates the Case and

and makes it far worse on the Side of the Commissioners. And indeed, I have some Suspicion to lead me into that Faith; because Mr. Bamford in his Epistle, which (I suppose) was sent by Order of the Commissioners, tells me, " IF I believe my self intitled to the Cash, and do but direct two Lines to Mr. Lamb's Coffee-House, at St. James's Gate, when I intend to call for it, he will be in the way; but desires it may be the Week following." So it seems Haste was requir'd to finish the Business, That he might give Notice to the Publick, Satisfaction was made for my Loss and Damage, and that I had given a Receipt to the Commissioners in full of all Demands for the Plunder committed upon my Possessions.

This Letter was shewn to some Judicious Persons: They agreed that I should Publish it, and shew my utmost Contempt of such a pitiful Composition; supposing the Money offer'd was the Commissioners, or Mr. Bamford's own Cash. However, I was so obliging to them, that I return'd a Verbal Answer by Mr. Lamb the Office-Keeper: I bid him give my most humble Service to the Honourable Commissioners, and to the worthy Mr. Bamford, and tell them, if I was Intitled to any Part of the Money, I had a Just Right to the whole, and would not come to Treat on any other Terms, but full Satisfaction upon all Accounts.

I thought it my Duty to give in this positive Answer to maintain the Dignity of the Kingdom: The Crown is not under any necessity to make such a dishonourable Composition with a Subject, as an undone Bankrupt would blush to offer his Creditors.

Here ends the Black List of 31 Articles.

This Censure I may venture to put upon the whole Tragical Scene, That the demolition of my Estate, and the dividing my Money into Lots, is some resemblance of the Overthrow of the Cities of Carthage and Jerusalem; both fell by Treachery and the breach of Laws; so it is ever, and ever will be, where 'tis not the fashion for Men to value themselves upon the account of Truth; or when 'tis look'd upon as if it were Charity to be Cruel, and a Vertue to deceive by cunning Stratagems.

There's one mysterious Intrigue more to come now upon the Stage: A Minister of my acquaintance having told a Person that belongs to the Excise, I design'd to Publish a Piece about the illegal Proceedings of the Commissioners, which would awaken the Nation; this Report (as it is suppos'd) sent an unknown Gentleman, to me on the 27th Day of August last, in order to make up (as he pretended) this great Affair that I so much Complain of; He propos'd to give me, One Hundred and Fifty Pounds: But I refus'd to treat with the said Gentleman; because he would not tell me his Name, and who employ'd him to make that Offer, which so much exceeded the former Proposals: He affirm'd, it was a Generous Gift of some private Persons, unknown to the Commissioners; and they did it, that the Publick might be no more troubled with my Complaints. I would have receiv'd the Cash as an Act of Charity (as he term'd it) but there he stopt and said, I must give at the Receipt of the Money, a General Discharge to the Commissioners and their Officers, as full Satisfaction for all Damages done to my Estate,

Estate, March 11th and 12th, 1717-18. I told the Gentleman, if I did that, he must bring me a much larger Sum; for it should never be said that my Estate was destroy'd against Law, and that I afterwards comply'd with a Proposal made in the dark, of a Sum not near the Value of what Damage I had sustain'd: But in Case he brought me my Just Demands, I was ready to Sign what Deeds he requir'd in the Names of any Persons, he should think fit to mention. At these Words the Gentleman went away in some Heat.

On September the 6th, I receiv'd a Letter by the Penny-Post: It is to be produc'd upon any Occasion, I shall here give every Word, as that Original Epistle runs.

S I R,

" THE Hundred and Fifty Pounds I offer'd you the 27th of August last, is now made up Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds; if you refuse to Comply upon these Terms, you will be Crush'd as the Moth. The Commissioners are resolv'd to do themselves Justice against your Insults: They have no Knowledge of this matter; were they to be appriz'd of the Proposals, the Gentlemen that give the Money, will lose their Favour for ever: Since the Commissioners know that Six-pence is not your due, nor would they give it to make you easy; however the Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds is lodg'd at Sir Richard Hoar's; I shall attend there on Monday the Fifteenth Instant, at Ten a Clock in the Forenoon, to Pay the Money to you, upon your giving such a General Discharge as I before requir'd; then all Trouble Ends, and you are out of Danger.

I am Yours,

J. Price.

I shall make no Comment at all upon these Two unexpected Accidents, but leave the Government and the Collective Body of the Nation to Judge, Whether the Money design'd to be Paid me, was to be presented; as a Noble Act of Bounty by Strangers; or came by Order of Gentlemen that ought in Justice to give me Five Times that Sum.

I Writ an Answer to the said Letter September 15th, and directed it to Sir Richard Hoar's Shop, for Mr. Price to be deliver'd to him there at Ten a Clock according to his Appointment; my Epistle was Verbatim thus.

S I R,

" I Cannot say that all or any of the Commissioners Act as Prompters behind the Scenes; to Sweeten and Sour me with Words: But it appears they have an Agent that knows their Mind, and performs the part very naturally: As for the Menaces in your Letter, they put no Terror into me; I require to have my Estate made Good

“ Good, and to be Paid all the Rent I have Lost, I believe the Publick will support me in this demand.

“ In *October* next, I shall present to the Ministry and the Commissioners, a Printed Treatise of my Case. And if it is not the Pleasure, either of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, or the Lord's of the Treasury, to Order me Restitution against the Meeting of the Parliament; then I shall Petition Gentlemen and Persons of Worth, to Subscribe to that small Tract; I hope those Collections will Answer my End, and put me out of Danger from the Commissioners, who are (as you say) resolv'd not only against giving Six-pence to make me easy, but, *will Crush me as the Moth*. It is unaccountable that Gentlemen who receive from the Crown a Yearly Salary of a Thousand Pounds each, must first Ruin a Subject at Pleasure by Tyranny, and because he Complains, it shall be call'd *Insults*; and *Revenge* is to be executed upon him, either by *Sham-Actions*, or private *Mischiefs*.

I am Sir,

15th September 1718, Your most Humble Servant

Ten in the Morning.

CHARLES POPE.

Should any of the Parties or Particular Persons, I have here charged with Fact, be so far incens'd as to do me a Secret Mischief; I have engag'd my Successors to pursue the same Way, I intend to take in Publishing this Piece to the World, to disperse the Copies throughout the whole Kingdom, and to get in Subscriptions, till the Loss and Damage I have Sustain'd by this vile Execution is made good.

The SCRUTINY.

In the Original Charge I Printed April 22d, I there required to have that Paper fully Answer'd Paragraph by Paragraph, in the Name of the Commissioners; yet no Plea at all was ever given in; but this I can testify, that it was industriously spread abroad by their Officers; that Mr. *Stamford* was to do it: The Report serv'd their End for some Months, to amuse the People; as if all I had Writ upon the whole Affair would be proved Libels: Had any obscure Gentleman been falsely loaded, only with one of those first Articles I charg'd upon the Commissioners; his Reputation would oblige him immediately to vindicate himself in a Publick manner.

When no Reply can be made to an Impeachment, the old Threadbare Evasions are trump'd up as Excuses: The Pretence is, that the Complainant is an inferior Person, a Fool, a Lunatick; or the charge is so trifling, that it is not worth an Answer. These kind of pitiful Shifts will not do, in a National Concern, where the Honour of the Government is engag'd; that's a tender Part to be touch'd, and the Commissioners ought to clear that Point, if it can be done. And I here again call upon them to Contradict with Truth, what I have affirmed now

now in these New Articles brought against them: If that is not done; how will the Commissioners Condu& Stain the Process of their Government, to the injury of the whole Constitution!

Now comes in an Article that may surprize the Natives of *England*; Strangers will question the Truth of it: I here in the presence of the World, will acquit the Commissioners of whatever they have Acted against me, and own all I have Writ of them to be pure Calumny, if they can but prove upon Oath, by any one Credible Witness, That they had any Demand or Claim to make, upon Account of the King's Revenues, or in any other Case whatever, for any Money due or becoming payable, to the value of one Single Penny, either from me or Mr. *Smith* my Tenant, upon the 12th Day of *March*, 1717-18. When Mr. *William Linnin* of *Golden-Lane* near *Cripplegate* with a Peace-Officer, and Three other Men as his Assistants, came to my House at *Hampstead* in the King's Name, from the Commissioners, and by Virtue of their Power, enter'd a Second Time, to destroy my Estate; begun to work in Demolishing it, and demanded of me by that Authority, so great a Quantity of Goods, as would Load Three or Four Teams.

Should the Commissioners get this Affidavit made before a Master in Chancery, so as I may have a Copy of it to Print, and give the Town my Answer to the said Affidavit: If I do not prove it down right Perjury, then upon that Issue, I'll put the Strefs of the whole Affair, and venture to stand or fall by it, in Sight of the Government and the Collective Body of the Nation: On the other side, should the Commissioners fail to do this, by the Assistance of their Officers, with that Wealthy Gentleman Mr. *Linnin* and his Four Agents; all the People of the Kingdom must Vote against them, and for me; otherwise every Man at once gives up his own Right and Property by Consent, and becomes a Slave. Laws are then at an End. I beseech the *British* Ministry to Pardon me, if I bring in the Duke of *Orleans* the now Regent of *France*, some time before the Decease of the late King: That great States-Man upon such a Complaint as mine is, spoke these Words: says he, “ Inferiour Officers are employ'd by the Superiour Magistrates: The Magistrates are chargeable with their Actions; and the Administration is answerable for the Acts of the Magistrates.”

If the English Government is the Reverse of this Rule, not to be accountable for the Commissioners Proceedings, tho' they have paid good part of my Money into the Exchequer; then I own my self to be mistaken in the Nature of our Constitution. But it is no Treason to say, that I am not easy to see the King's Officers come into my House, take away my Goods contrary to Law, Sell them, pay in the Cash to the Commissioners; the Commissioners Transfer it into the Exchequer, and the Government apply that Money to Publick Uses; and when I tell the Truth of the Sad Story, and only beg for the return of my own: Then to be deny'd that Request, and sent to pick up my Losings where I can get it, upon my Publick Petitions from one good Christian to another: This I take to be some sort of hardship; yet I Resign, my Resistance shall proceed no further, than to be earnest with People to be Charitable, and Subscribe for this Treatise.

I cannot shut up this Principal Head of the new Extent Arbitrary Law, without some particular Notice and Recapitulation: The Commissioners had first obtain'd all their Demands and Claims out of my Tenants Effects, and carry'd them off: Afterwards they demanded Threescore Pounds of my Money, then they Seiz'd a Second time, and took away from me Forty times the value of the Money left to Pay, before the Judgment was Executed upon *Smith's* Goods: When these two Seizures were made, a Third Distress was Executed, to Pay the very same Score: So that there were no less than Three Distinct Seizures; and a Demand of Threescore Pounds to Secure one Debt due to the King; and I do here Solemnly Publish it, That the real Duty then Payable, was no more than One Pound, Sixteen Shillings, Eleven Pence, Three Farthings; and in the whole, there were Goods carry'd off, and Damage done to me, to the value of Two Thousand One Hundred Pounds: Unless my Estate is put into its first Frame. If this is not an Inquisition, or a severe Persecution; then let my Sovereign, the Parliament, the Ministry, the Commissioners, and all the People of Great Britain, proclaim me an Incendiary; and that I Write this Treatise, to kindle Flames in the Breasts of the Subject, to create Civil Wars, and to invite Foreigners to make an Invasion: But if I have now given a Just Description of the Act, all Serious and Wise Minds will pronounce it, That the whole Tract is the very Reverse, and is Publish'd with view to extinguish what serves to be the only Tendency, to bring upon the Nation again, those Plagues of Treason, Rebellion and Tumults, with all their innumerable Dependancies: Since the breach of Establish'd Laws, to the Oppression of the Subject, always was, and ever will be, the first and Principal Cause that brings Destruction upon Kingdoms and States.

Cast an Eye upon *Spain* at this very Time, one Arbitrary Act has put a whole Province into Arms, and alarm'd all the Kingdom, Murders are Committed, and great Devastations made; the abused Subjects wrote a Letter to the King, "That they will hazard their Lives in defence of their Antient Privileges. I'll speak in the Words of the States of *Holland*. "That Almighty God would be pleas'd to pour his most pretious Blessings upon our Sovereign's Sacred Person, for the Security of his faithful Subjects dear Liberties.

The Commissioners and their Agents would now perform for themselves a Singular piece of Service, if they will Summons together all their Learning and Sagacity, to prove that I have fail'd to give an exact Narrative, how they went on Step by Step, from the first Moment they began to destroy my Estate; to the very Hour I receiv'd Mr. *Price's* Judicious Epistle: That Letter pleads Guilty; it betrays the Nakedness of the Cause. Tho' I take it to be the prime Piece of their Art: It may be Compar'd to the last Exit of a dying Man, when the Pulse beats low, and there is a hard Strugling for Breath.

I can't conclude these Minutes better than to give in a small Piece of History: An *Italian Lady*, as She was viewing at *Vienna* the Marble Statue of a Potent Governour; Fancy'd she saw Tyranny in the Lineaments of the Image: The Honourable Person the Figure represented was naturally so, but by an Austere Discipline, he kept his Severity within such Bounds, that he never went farther than the utmost Extent of the *Roman Laws*. Our *English Commissioners* have gone
Eleven

Eleven Points in twelve beyond the Bounds of the Statutes of the Realm.

I have prov'd Four Inquisitions. There are Three others to be spoke to: When all of them are put together, they'll be some Representation of the Persecutions under the Ten Roman Emperors. Such pieces as this ought to be kept in every private Study; they are as necessary to be there as the Book of Martyrs is in Churches; since were *Solon* or *Lycurgus*, *Ulysses* or *Aristotle*, *Achitophel* or *Machiavel*, now Living and to be call'd into Council to consult about the true Nature of my Austere Treatment; I believe it would puzzle their utmost Sagacity, Philosophy and Skill in Politicks to unfold that Mystery.

Persecution.

To keep the Romish Host from being offer'd at the Altar of the Establish'd Church, I sacrific'd a Thousand Pounds, as believing that Church to be the best Constituted in the whole World, for the Excellency of her Articles and the Exactness of her Discipline. Duke *D'Aumont* the *French* Ambassador, when he came over into *England*, sent the Marquess De *St. Andre* to my House at *Hampsted* to take that Seat during the Time his Grace was to reside in the Kingdom. It was agreed that one Thousand Pounds should be Paid as Rent, and the Duke to be at the Charge of putting the Apartments and Gardens into Order. Tho' the offer made was so considerable, and a Prospect of receiving further Advantages; yet I kept to my fix'd Principles, and told the Marquess, That as to my House and Park, they were at the Duke's Service; but the Chappel newly Erected upon the Premises, could not be set apart for any other Worship, than that of the National Church. The Marquess said it was the Chappel that gave the Duke the Invitation; and advis'd me to consider better of the Matter, and to come to the Duke the next Day, with another Sort of a Resolution.

To prevent giving Offence, I did not go, but gave my Excuse in Writing express'd in the softest Terms. Upon this, the Duke sent the Marquess de *St. Andre* again, with several other Gentlemen, to put the Question as before, and the first Answer was return'd, which gave such Disgust; that soon after, a Message came from the Privy Council: with a Reprimand in these Words: *That I should be taken Notice of, and look'd upon as an Enemy to the Queen and Government.* This was my Reward for maintaining Truth; and no returns have been made to me under this Administration for that Service, done in a Time when the Nation was in danger of being brought to have *Mass-Houses* set up in our Universities, and within the Walls of the great City.

His Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, soon after he came over into *England*, was made acquainted with several of these Particulars, in a Letter deliver'd to him, in which I offer'd my House and Chappel to his Royal Highness for a Place of Recept, or constant Residence. But I was never so far Honoured, as to receive a Gracious Answer, tho' I waited in expectation of it; and for that end, kept the Mansion-House and Park unlet for a considerable Time.

I'll now try the Benevolence of my Fellow Subjects, to Recruit what I have freely Sacrific'd upon this Account.

Persecution VI.

This Inquisition requires the Attention of every Free-born Subject: All good Men that heard of the Act, pleaded against the Barbarity of the Proceedings. In the Year 1709, without any Breach either upon the Decrees of the Deity, or the Statutes of the Realm. I was in the last Reign, thrown out of an Undertaking, worth to me above a Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, with the Loss of Eight Hundred Pounds laid out to bring that Work to bear, and in defending a Suit against the Crown.

To ease the Subject, I invented and set up the Half-Penny Carriage for conveying Letters to and fro within the main Pile of Buildings in London. Before this Affair was enter'd upon, I took Advice of able Council, two of which said Council, were so considerable for their Knowledge in the Law, that since His Majesty came to the Crown, it was thought fit to make them Judges: Those Gentlemen gave it in as their Opinion, "That there was no Act of Parliament then in Force, to hinder any Subject from taking in and delivering out Letters within the Bills of Mortality."

Upon this Assurance, I set up my Undertaking: But as soon as it came to answer Charges, and to bring in Profit, a Process at Law was taken out against me in the Exchequer-Court. I prepar'd to make my Defence, as believing that Justice might be obtain'd in a right Cause, when the Ministers of State and Judges who then acted, appear'd to be a Body that maintain'd the strictest Truth.

As this Point was in Debate, Notice was brought to me, That the Earl of Godolphin, then Lord Treasurer, was dispos'd to come to Terms of Agreement. Accordingly I waited upon his Lordship, who promis'd that all Matters should be adjust'd without Trouble, in case I laid down my Undertaking, and submitted to what the Queen should think fit to give me as an Equivalent: With this Proposal I comply'd, and acquiesc'd to every thing requir'd: His Lordship, to shew the Sincerity of his Intentions, order'd a Reference to be drawn up, which was done, and Sign'd by his Lordship's own Hand, and enter'd in the Book at the Treasury-Office. I paid the Fees demanded for Engrossing the said Reference, and giving a Copy of it. Upon this I immediately went and acquainted Sir Thomas Frankland then Post-Master General, with what the Lord Treasurer had done and order'd. That Gentleman cannot forget or deny the Truth of this Assertion, or disown that some time before the Matter was put to Reference, he set forth an Advertisement in three several *Gazettes*, to tell the Publick, That I had set up a Carriage for Letters, contrary to the Statutes of the Realm, and was order'd to be proceeded against for the Breach of the Act to establish the General Post-Office.

Now enters the strange Scene that may make a *Turk* or a *Pagan* blush; the Breach of Contract calls aloud for Justice at the Cœlestial and Terrestrial Tribunals. After the Matter was left to Reference, and I thought my self secure, and was waiting to receive Her Majesties Equivalent, for my Undertaking and Charges; a Summons was sent me to come to Tryal, without any Notice taken of what was before promis'd and agreed upon. This is not all the Violence offer'd in the Case;

Case; the Suddenness of the Act was another Outrage: For forty eight Hours were only allow'd me to prepare to make my Defence in so important a Point, whereon my All depended. Neither Prayers nor Entreaties, tho' put up with the greatest Submission and Earnestness, could prevail to get any longer Space: I was unnaturally hurry'd to the Bar, as it were a common Criminal, at the very Hour appointed in the Summons.

The late Lord Chief Baron *Ward*, the Judge, as a Turn in his Charge to the Jury, was pleas'd to make a short *Encomium* on my Merits, but withal told them, That they must bring in their Verdict for the Queen, It was done in the Presence of Crowds of Witnesses, that came from all Parts of the Town to hear that extraordinary Tryal: They can give in a true Narrative, how that Cause was Prosecuted, and how it was Defended; what was, and what was not Prov'd.

'Tis pity the Laws of the Land are so severe, that when a Man is cast in his Suit, be it ever so strangely, or against the Practice of all common Proceedings, yet he dares not Print a faithful Account of what pass'd in several Particulars; as to the Plaintiff, the Evidence, the Judge and the Jury: Were that to be suffer'd, many Things might be drawn out which are now conceal'd, and the Subjects may be writ in such moving Expressions, as to make Men engaged in ill Actions, to tremble like *Felix*, when the imprison'd Apostle argu'd of *Righteousness, Temperance and Judgment*; so great is the Force that lyes upon the Spirits under heavy Pressures.

It is not decent to fall in with any Anger or bad Language, on the Ashes of the Deceased, but let their scatter'd Particles lye hid in Darkness, and be utterly forgot: For the Judge that gave the unjust Charge is dead; all the Jury-Men that were most zealous to bring in a wrong Verdict, are dead; The Lord Treasurer that Sign'd the Reference, and promis'd to give me an Equivalent for my Undertaking, (but fail'd to perform it,) he is dead: Yet this may be said, by the Loss of the Cause, I was brought into great Calamity, driven out of my Dwelling-House, as it were a Bankrupt, that had outrun his Substance in riotous Living. This Instance, or cross Accident, oblig'd me to sell my Undertaking of the *Sun-Fire-Office*, on very low Terms, that would, were I now in Possession of it, bring me in Six or Eight Hundred Pounds *per Annum*. Thus one Loss instantly fell upon another, and the Effects of them are still visibly felt.

After the Verdict was given, I went to the Earl of Godolphin, put him in mind of his former Engagements, and of the Reference granted, told him of my hard Usage, and begg'd to be Redress'd: His Reply was, *The Case should be taken into Consideration, and some suitable Amends made.* But Affairs of State alter'd, his Lordship was remov'd from the Treasury, and my Principles not agreeing with the Change of the Parliament and the Ministry, it was in vain for me to seek for Justice to his Successor the Earl of Oxford.

From the Beginning of the present Reign, I was in Expectation to be Reliev'd in so particular a Case, without offering any Plea. One Reason I have to give in, cannot but be of Force: My Undertaking for the Carriage of Letters, and my Tryal in the Exchequer-Court, that were to me of such sad Consequence, prov'd highly Advantageous to the Crown: For my Misfortune in that Affair, was the sole Occasion of making

making the late New Act to establish the General Post-Office, in which Act the Postage of Letters was rais'd, that increases the Publick Revenues Thirty Thousand Pounds per Annum: At that Time the Penny-Post was also joyn'd to the General Post-Office, which was not before done.

One Remark is presum'd to be enter'd: It was declar'd and own'd, That during the Arbitrary Proceedings in King James II's Reign, Mr. Dockwray the Inventor of the said Penny-Post, was cast against Law, by the Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys. This Wrong was taken into Consideration by King WILLIAM III. of Glorious Memory: That Prince gave the unfortunate Gentleman Six Hundred Pounds per Annum out of the Profits of his own Undertaking.

One Instance more may be brought in: The said New Act of Parliament to establish the General Post-Office, is a plain Indication of the Insufficiency of the Old Act: If the Penny-Post did before of right belong to the Crown, what need was there of inserting a Clause in that late Act, to annex it now to the General Post-Office? And why was a particular Article put in, to forbid the Subject under severe Penalties, to carry Letters for the future in and about London for Gain, in the Nature of a Post or Carriage? This plainly shews, that there was no such Restraint in the Old Act.

If it is said that the Verdict against me was not contrary to the Statutes of the Realm, then the Lord Jeffreys's Decree against Mr. Dockwray was also conformable to the same Statutes and Rules: For both the Undertakings, and both the Tryals, stood upon one and the same Bottom: One of the Persons cannot be Guilty of the Breach of the Law, and the other Innocent. If the Point were not as clear, as the Light of the Sun, the Eye of the Government should never have seen this Address made in such pressing Terms.

Persecution VII.

This last Inquisition that I have to declare, has often times astonish'd me, I should be glad if any English-man could account for it; but it is like the Passage Recorded in Sacred Writ: "An obscure Man by his Zeal and Thought sav'd the City, when a great Force came against it, yet no Notice was taken of that True Patriot; his Obscurity serv'd to hide him from Favour and Reward."

In the Infancy of this Reign, soon after His Majesty's Arrival in the Kingdom, when all Affairs were just at a Crisis; and other Men, tho' entirely in the Right Interest, did not think fit to publish their Thoughts, till they saw which Way the Great Engine of State turn'd. I writ a Treatise, Entituled, *An Enquiry into the Miscarriages of the Four last Years Reign, presented to the Freeholders of Great Britain, against the Election of a New Parliament.*

At the Time this Work was done, potent Enemies were struggling to take away LIBERTY and PROPERTY, and an Impostor was waiting for an Opportunity to be set on the British Throne. The Strength seem'd to be invincible, by the Power of the late disbanded Ministry, and their numerous Adherents: Rage and Interest joyn'd together, threaten'd to defeat the King's Friends, by their Votes at the Choice of Members to sit in the first National Council call'd in this Reign. The Principles of the People were then every where poison'd with

with Zeal for the late vanquish'd Invader: They wanted to have instill'd into their Minds True Loyalty for a Protestant Prince just arriv'd in the Kingdom, and to be inform'd of what vile Treacheries had been acted in disguis'd Scenes, and what was like to be the Issue of the whole Train of those Plots, if they had gain'd their Point at the Election. The Contents of these Matters were enter'd in the said Treatise of *An Inquiry, &c.*

The Piece was not to be writ at that Time in a Great Volume with large Quotations, but in a small Tract, with short Heads, and proper Remarks on them, that it might come to the View of the Subjects of all Degrees. I need not say, that never any Copy went off so quick, and in such great Numbers, as it did, since it was visible to both the Kingdoms of *Great Britain and Ireland.* I laid aside my own private Interest, and look'd at saving the Nation from the imminent Ruin it was threaten'd with: For tho' there was Matter sufficient in the written Copy to make a Twelve-Penny Book, yet I order'd it to be sold only at Three-Pence, or Twenty Four Shillings a Hundred. But I expected upon the Success of the Work, the Administration would have answer'd that Deficiency tenfold, without asking for it.

The unusual Sale discover'd what this Government and the honest Gentlemen, who set up for Members of Parliament, then thought of those Collections, and what they believ'd would be the Consequence of their Publication. Five Days after the first Edition came forth, three spurious Impressions appear'd abroad, and in less than a Fortnight, most of the Pirate-Printers within the Bills of Mortality, were employ'd in working off Copies, the Call for them was every where so great in and about Town: And in one Month, the Printing-Presses in the Country Cities throughout the Kingdom, were upon the same Business, to answer the Demands of the several adjacent Counties in those Parts.

To serve the Government, I thus suffer'd my self to be every where publickly Robb'd of my Just Rights and Property, contrary to a late Act of Parliament, made on purpose to give every Author the sole Title to Print off his own Copies, and enjoyning that no other Person or Persons, presume to do it under severe Penalties. However, upon so great an Exigency of Publick Affairs, I was contented to sit down quietly with the Loss, without entering any Prosecution at Law against the Offenders; that the Publishing of the Work might not be stop't, or in the least hinder'd in its Progress. This is the true Reason why I did not seize upon the Pirates Printed Copies, and Cancel them, as I might have done, according to the Tenour of the Statute.

It is presum'd to say, at the Time when the Kingdom was in its greatest Distress, and the Treatise prov'd of singular Use to the State, at the Election for Members; scarce any thing but Praises and Promises, Verbal, and in Writing, came to me from Persons of Distinction, that one would have thought might have prov'd as Faithful in their Performances, as they were Genteel in the Multiplicity of their Compliments. And it must with Submission be said, That after a Signal Victory at the Elections was obtain'd over the adverse Party, and a good Parliament appear'd, not one Word or Line since that Glorious Success and Deliverance, came to me with the least Return or Acknowledgment for my Zeal and Loyalty, tho' I apparently hazarded

hazarded my Life, as it was even menac'd and attempted, only upon Account of that Work, by being so open in delivering my Sentiments in the Face of so numerous a Body of Enemies, that swell'd with Revenge, to see themselves disappointed in their Grand Design. His Most Gracious MAJESTY was once pleas'd to declare, That those Persons should be distinguish'd who took Measures Conducive to the supporting of the Just Rights of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People. I entirely rely'd upon that ROYAL PROMISE, so far as to receive a Premium for what the Pirate-Printers Robb'd me of, which was very Considerable.

The Number of Copies those Offenders sold upon this General Occasion, was not less than Two Hundred Thousand. Many private Gentlemen and Tradesmen, that lov'd their Country, bought up and gave away in their respective Neighbourhoods, One, Two, or Three Hundred Copies; and those of higher Ranks, Five, or Eight Hundred, or a Thousand. This was done by abundance of the Subjects, in all the Corporations, Shire, and Borough-Towns, throughout Great Britain, besides the great Number of Copies that were dispos'd of to single Persons. The said Treatise was likewise Translated into French, and two Impressions of a Thousand each, were work'd off in Spittle-Fields, at one Printing-House, chiefly for the use of the poor Huguenots.

In Ireland, against the Election of the first Parliament in that Kingdom, since his Majesty's happy Accession to the Crown the said Copies were also made use of upon the same account, and dispers'd in every County, as was practis'd here in England, and by the choice of the Members it appear'd to have equal prosperous Fortune. The Book was likewise Printed in Dutch, at the Hague, and in other Places in Holland; and Copies were sent into the several Provinces of the United Netherlands. What made the Work sell there, was, that the Contents of the said Treatise plainly set forth the whole Narrative of the late Mal-administration, in Sixty five Articles, and cleared the Points how the Queen was insulted, Publick Treasons carry'd on, and the whole Nation falsly betray'd.

Here it cannot be conceal'd, that this Treatise of mine intitled an Inquiry into the Miscarriages of the Four last Years Reign, presented to the Freeholders of Great-Britain against the Election of a New Parliament, was answer'd: The Tories to oblige their Friends, writ a Tract, and dedicated it to the Train of Electors that were to Vote on their Side: The Epistle was call'd English Advice to the Freeholders of England. It may be remember'd that the Government look'd upon that Pamphlet to be of dangerous consequence to the State, and the Great National Concerns then depending. The King and Council, to express their displeasure, issued out a Proclamation, offering One Thousand Pounds Reward to discover the Author or the Publisher of that scandalous Tract.

With great Submission, the Complaint is now put in: The Sight of that Declaration gave me much Discouragement. I ever since look'd upon my self as an Alien, being so far forsaken by my Prince and the Ministers of State, as not to receive a Gracious Return: Since my Writings were publickly confess'd to be one of the Principal natural Causes of obtaining at the Elections the Choice of the two present Parliaments in great Britain and Ireland, which have fix'd the Constitution upon the sure Basis it now stands. It

It appears very grievous, because 'tis demonstrable, That I actually lost more than a Thousand Pounds in setting my Copy at so low a Price, and the Book being Printed upon me every where in such vast Numbers.

What I am now going to say, I have the Confirmation of many Gentlemen, well vers'd in State-Politicks: They believ'd that had there been distributed Five Hundred Thousand Pounds in Great Britain and Ireland against the Election of the Two Parliaments, even that Sum would not have answer'd the end with Success equal to my Copies of the Inquiries, as they were dispers'd by the King's faithful Subjects in every Part of both Kingdoms. I'll add to this a Notion of my own, A small Treatise publish'd at an exact Time may save a Common-wealth or a Province from being overwhelm'd in a deluge of Blood: When at other seasons, a Thousand large Volumes, tho' much better writ, shall not avail to stop the progress of impending Danger.

Sir William Walworth, only by giving at a fortunate moment, one Stab with a short Dagger, suppress'd a Rebellion that the King with all his Forces, was not able to accomplish the Day before. That Enemy then destroy'd by the worthy Knight, might in the conclusion have proclaim'd himself Lord Protector of the whole Kingdom. Had the Tories got Parliaments of their own Stamp, Fire and Sword must have been the portion of the poor distressed Whigs.

I repine not but rejoice at my Pains and Study in that great Service; yet I take it as a Persecution, for other Men to reap all the pleasant Fruits of those plentiful Harvests; and my self oblig'd to lose One Thousand Pounds Sterling of what was my just Right, given by the Decree of the Three Estates of the Realm. I think it an Inquisition upon me, not to be allow'd that Money by the Administration; because it was lost to secure to the Sovereign and the Nation perpetual Tranquillity, and to bring in Liberty and Plenty.

I pray that at the next Election of Members to Sit in the House of Commons, no Author may be then wanted to write against King George's Enemies, and be ruin'd for opposing their Strength; such an Act weakens the very Nerves of true Loyalty. One Subject sent to ask Collections of the Publick, (as I am) for Dammage sustain'd by the Extortion of Commissioners, and Money lost in obtaining the Two present Parliaments, may strike a damp upon the Spirits of Multitudes of true Patriots, and force them to give way before the Romans and the Domestick Mal-Contents.

It is in vain to sweat and win a Race, if both the Wager and the Prize is at last to be transferr'd to those that never ventur'd any hazard in the difficult Enterprize; but perhaps lay hid like Cowardly Deserters, till the Fight is over, and then come to take all the Plunder from the Wounded, that have lost their Vigour and Blood to vanquish a Tyrant, and keep the Field of Arms.

I do here publickly lay claim to the Honour of being highly Instrumental in obtaining the present British and Irish Parliaments: And must such a Subject now in the Face of the World, be oblig'd to go a begging from one County to another for what he has really lost and suffer'd in performing that great and difficult Service. I am sorry I'm forc'd openly to take so much Glory to my self: I never thought when

(when I saw the Electors buy up my Copies in vast Numbers) to be brought to this pass, by the extremity of a barbarous and unheard of Inquisition. It is a poor Reward for all my Fatigues and Toils.

By the Seven Inquisitions here express'd, I have sustain'd great Damage: The Account shall be now summ'd up,

They Constitute Eight ARTICLES.

Art. I. Lost Seventy Three Pounds in being oblig'd to pay Taxes wrongfully for an Income or an Estate of Six Hundred Pounds per Annum.

Art. II. Lost (for the sake of the Establish'd Church) One Thousand Pounds, by refusing Duke D' Aumont the use of my Chapel, to keep the Romish Host from being offer'd upon her Altar.

Art. III. Lost an Undertaking that would have brought me in One Thousand Pounds per Annum, whereby the Revenues of the Crown are advanc'd Thirty Thousand Pounds a Year.

Art. IV. Lost Eight Hundred Pounds, to bring the said Undertaking to Perfection, and in defending a Suit against the Crown, to keep my just Right and Property.

Art. V. Lost Six Hundred Pounds per Annum by the Sun-Fire-Office, upon account that I was oblig'd to part with that Undertaking, by the Cross-Accident of my being Cast in the Tryal before the Lord Chief Baron Ward.

Art. VI. Lost Eight Years Income, from the Profits of the Two Undertakings above-mentioned, which is Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Pounds.

Art. VII. Lost One Thousand Pounds in striving to obtain the present British and Irish Parliaments, by setting my Copy of the Enquiries at a low Price, and the Book being Pirated upon me.

Art. VIII. Lost an Estate of One Hundred Pounds a Year, by the late Act of the Commissioners of Excise.

The Sum Total of the Loss and Damage I have sustain'd for my Publick Services, set down in the Eight preceding Articles, amounts to One Thousand Seven Hundred Pounds per Annum, and Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Three Pounds in Money.

What relates to the last Article I must repeat; the Government as to that Point, have now in a very remarkable Manner been pleas'd to take Notice of me: The Estate that was my Dependance and last Refuge,

Refuge, is sacrific'd after an inhumane Manner: This is to compensate all my Services from the first calling in of our Great Deliverer King WILLIAM III. This is the Reward I receiv'd on the 11th and 12th Days of March, 1717-18, by Virtue of the Executions of the unheard of New Secret-Extent-Law.

A THOUGHT upon the Fame of Ingratitude.

There are two sorts of Ingratitude, one is the Ingratitude of a Kingdom to a Subject, and the other the Subject's Ingratitude to his Native Country: I shall speak of the last first.

Moral Philosophy represented in Scenes, is more beautiful to some Minds than the Verbal Expressions of an eloquent Oratour. At the City of Peking in China, are to be seen several curious Cuts Engraven on Copper-Plates: One Piece describes the Ingratitude of a Subject to his Sovereign: He is set forth very naturally, undermining the Foundation of the Constitution, and erecting a New Throne for an Usurper.

This fine Description, tho' at so vast a Distance, seems to point out many of our English Subjects; they have attempted that very Act: But I pray that our Dread SOVERAIGN, and His ROYAL ISSUE, may Live and Reign in these his Imperial Dominions, till the Globe of the Earth is unhing'd from its Axis.

I come now to treat of a Kingdom's Ingratitude to a Subject: Here I shall borrow from Authors some Thoughts upon that Head, and intermix them with my own. Rome was ungrateful to the Scipio's, and to Camillus; Athens was ungrateful to Miltiades, and Themistocles; Lacedaemon was ungrateful to Agis and others; Carthage was ungrateful to Hannibal and Hanno: France was ungrateful to Prince Eugene of Savoy. England was in a fair way of being as illustrious for Ingratitude, as any Nation in the World; witness the Duke of Marlborough, during the Government of the former Ministry: For instead of rewarding that Great General with Lawrels of Glory, for his Signal Victories at Blenheim, Ramellies, Audenard, &c. the Parliament very unjustly Impeach'd him with the Odious Scandal of taking away the Soldiers Daily Bread, and exacting from the Nation the Two and a Half per Cent. tho' the Money was the Duke's own Perquisite, belonging to him as General of the Army.

A Kingdom's Ingratitude to a Subject, that has been any ways instrumental in preserving the Constitution, is like Men wounding their Friends with false Calumnies, that fetch'd them out of Prison or Bondage: Or it is as a wild Horse, that when he is pull'd out of a deep Ditch, spurns at those that sav'd him from perishing in the thick Mire. I leave my Thoughts, (tho' they are thus severe) to the Censure of Divines and Philosophers; they can tell that in pass'd Ages, this sort of Ingratitude was always esteem'd an infamous Vice. Some of the Ancients compare the Act to a Man killing his Sister; against both which Crimes, no Nation in the World ever made a Statute before the Athenians: Since in those Two Points it was judg'd that the innate Law of Mankind was alone sufficient to restrain such Unnatural Sins.

I am sensible that Government-Ingratitude is more in vogue in some Administrations than in others. If the Primitive Fathers were now living, what would they say to see a Subject strip naked and persecuted, that (at the Peril of Life and Expence of Fortune) had been one principal Agent (to give a sudden Change in time of Danger,) for preserving the State: And to behold other Subjects rais'd to Honour and Wealth, that can't bring an Instance of one Publick Piece of Service perform'd in Defence of the Constitution. I profess I never waited for Pensions or Sallaries; whatever I requir'd, was only to receive that which I look upon to be as much my Right by Equity, as any Peasant has to his Tenement or Plat of Ground upon a Common, given to him by his Sovereign, or the Lord of the Mannour.

I am certain the King, the Parliament and the Ministry, from their great Sagacity, will grant, That those Nations are ungrateful, that do not return the Benefits they receive, tho' done by miserable Pagans or Barbarians. In the Closet of Lewis X. King of France, there was a curious Manuscript, the Author compar'd Ingratitude to a Tyrant that punish'd, but never rewarded his Subjects: In the same Manuscript was set forth the Character of a potent Monarch, who us'd to distribute Sevenfold for one Act of Zeal and Loyalty to the Crown.

It is said that King Philip of Macedon, when a common Soldier that had been sav'd from Shipwrack by a certain Farmer, told the King the sad Story of his Distress, and begg'd that very Farm of him: The Sovereign being afterwards acquainted with the Truth of the Fact, was so justly offended, that having restor'd the right Owner to his Farm, he cashier'd the Soldier, with these Words burnt upon his Forehead, *The Ungrateful Guest.*

I have heard of a Young Man that would not outlive a Vulture that had done him a Piece of Service; but when the Creature dy'd, the Youth made a Fire; and threw himself with the dead Bird into the Funeral Pile, where they were both consum'd to Ashes. It is also reported that a Lion would not destroy a Slave when put into his Den; only because the Man had once oblig'd the Brute Animal, by pulling a Thorn out of his Foot.

There is another particular Kind of Ingratitude of a Government to a private Person, which is still worse; That is, when an Administration suffers a faithful Subject to be ruin'd, and to have his Goods and Chattels taken from him against Law; and then like the Adder turn a deaf Ear to all Complaints made for Restitution and Justice: Such an Act represents an unnatural Woman destroying the Fruit of her own Body; or it is a lively Emblem of irrational Creatures eating up their own Young. The Moralists and the Schoolmen thought there was no Name or Mark of Distinction to be given to Brand this last sort of Ingratitude with; but that it deserv'd the same Punishment that was inflicted by the *Romans*, for the black Crime of Parricide; which was to put the Malefactor into a Basket or Sack, with an Ape, a Cock and a Viper, and to let them live for some Time in that Confinement, to torture the wicked Wretch; and then fling them all together into the Sea, to sink and perish in the deep Ocean. Ingratitude of the lowest Degree, has ever been reckon'd an arrant Republican Vice.

If this Hint upon Ingratitude of a Government to a Subject; gives any Emblem of my unkind Treatment by the Low Church Party put into Posts of Profit, it is then my Unhappiness that I was born in this Island: Had I been a Native of *India*, or any other foreign Country, even where Men worship the Sun, or any of the wand'ring Planets, as their Supreme Deity; I might have expected to receive Favour from those Infidels, upon the Representation of far less Services and Grievances than I here complain of.

During my Travels abroad, I have seen among the Inhabitants of the Woods and Desarts, wild Animals guided only by a natural Instinct, that there is to be found in them great Sense of Gratitude. Those Creatures, (tho' they have no regular Order of Government) will defend Humane Bodies from Injuries, that have at any Time contributed towards their Preservation. Irrational Beings do not Seal up the Merit, as soon as the end is obtain'd; or at least, they do not utterly destroy the Objects that once help'd them.

This way of speaking, is not agreeable to my Genius; it is the quick Thought I have of my innumerable Losses that extorts the Words. Extremity now obliges me to ask for Publick Contributions, to make good what I have suffer'd by *English* Inquisition: Every one that is surpriz'd in a Tempest, will strive to escape the Fury of the proud Waves: An Enemy's Cruelty then changes into good Nature, he comes in as a Pilot to save the Distressed from being Shipwrack'd.

The Publick Collections I shall make, by my Dedicating this Treatise to every *True Briton*, may be of good Advantage to the Nation in general; every single Piece of Coin given upon this Occasion, will be as a Vote against Usurpation and Ingratitude; those Crimson-Transgressions cannot then go off in Obscurity: The very Memory of such Offerings will live, and be seen Register'd in the Chronicles of Fame. The Generations yet unborn will tell it; some with Pleasure, some with Grief, That their Ancestors, by making an Oblation to reimburse an abus'd Fellow-Subject, were the Means to discountenance and suppress Tyranny, and the Neglect of returning just Gratifications for Signal Services perform'd; to the end that no Subject may be discourag'd from Writing or Voting, to obtain good Parliaments at Elections, when the Nations are in danger of perishing by the Strength of the *Romans*.

Briefs for relieving Refugees, the building or repairing of Churches, erecting of Hospitals, or making good Dammage by Fire, are frequent: But this will be an uncommon Contribution, a Gift that never was ask'd for before, nor ever may be desir'd again.

'Tis concluded that every Man, if it is only for the Sake of securing his own Liberty and Property from the private Invasions of the Crown-Officers, will put in a Mite towards making good my Dammage. As to some Points, I may err in my Opinion of Things: I think here I am right; That all Persons who sedately examine this Piece throughout, cannot from a Principle of Generosity deny to give liberally; because my Treatment, (take it from the beginning to the end) is as bad or worse than the *Italian*, or even the *Spanish* Inquisition: The Penance their is Pain, and if it be acute it is short, Death soon

soon puts a Period to the Anguish: But the Inquisitions I have been Tormented by, in my Native Country, are bitter and perpetual: For as soon as I came out of the Power of one Inquisitor or Commissioner General, another appears, with the same Tyrannical Authority; and by a New Decree, I am again put to the Rack; tho' to the Impeachments brought in against me, no Witness ever came in to shew just Cause, why I should be continually thus Tortur'd: But so it is in all Foreign Inquisitions, Guilty or not Guilty, a Heretick or a good Catholick; only upon secret Information from a Capuchin Frier or a Knight of the Post, the Rack or the Wheel or the Fire is prepar'd, and the Torture is Executed.

To come to the Period of the whole Matter, and to shut up this strange Scene: Only Assassins and Traytors us'd to be prosecuted in this Island, and have their Estates forfeited and apply'd to Publick Uses: Not a Man that has work'd like a Galley Slave, above thirty Years in his Study, and in other Services, to assist in Establishing the Constitution upon Pillars, which bear it up against the violent Storms of Foreign and Domestick Enemies: Such a President cannot be found in our English Annals; or in the Volumes that treat of the Government of Augustus, who preceded Nero in the Roman Empire.

From Bellisac at Hampsted, in Middlesex, Octob. 20, 1718.

FINIS

POSTSCRIPT.

ALL Gentlemen and other Persons, that receive this Treatise during the Time the Parliament is sitting; they will be waited upon for their Subscriptions. Copies were delivered to the High Officers of State, Eighteen Days before the Parliament met: The Author did that to prevent the Piece being Publish'd, and to preserve the Honour and Dignity of the Government, expecting to be reliev'd by the Ministry; but as it was not done, this way is taken, to Collect in, what has been Suffer'd and Lost, by the Seven PERSECUTIONS or ENGLISH INQUISITION.

P O R T R A I T

The Commission of the Interior
 has been authorized to issue
 orders for the removal of
 the Indians from the
 reservation to the
 land to which they are
 entitled by law. It is
 the policy of the
 Government to encourage
 the Indians to become
 self-sufficient and
 to acquire the habits
 of civilized life.