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From **Monday** May 23. to **Thursday** May 26. 1681.

Paris, May 30.

IT is now said for certain, that the Dauphin is with Child. The Spanish Ambassad. in a late Audience he had of the King desired his Majesty would please once for all to Declare the Pretensions he has upon the Crown of Spain; to which his Majesty answered, that he could not yet do it, because he received every day some new information of his Right on several Places. The Chamber established for the punishing of Poisoning begins to act again, and several persons have been lately seized by order thereof; but this seems to many People to be a very great Mystery. The King has given Orders for the working on the Fortifications he is making on the Saar and the Rhine, with all the diligence possible.

Plymouth, May 20. To-morrow His Majesties Ship the Assurance will sail from hence with the Merchant Ships under her Convoy for *Bi boe*. The Foresight continues here, expecting the Ships that are to go under her Convoy to the *Streights*. This day arrived here the *True Dealing* of this place from *Cadix*, the Master confirms the news of the *Sapire's* having taken an Algerine of 22 Guns.

Portsmouth, May 22. Thursday in the Evening sailed from *Spithead* the *Falcon* Frigate, Captain *Churchil* Commander bound for the *Streights*, and yesterday came to an Anchor at *Spithead* the *Guernsey*, Captain *Tenant*, who came from cruising.

Portsmouth, May 24. On Sunday sailed from *Spithead* the *Ruby* Frigate, Captain *Allen* Commander for the *Streights*.

Windsor, May 23. This day the Justices of the Peace of the County of *Middlesex* waited upon His Majesty in a Body, and presented to His Majesty the following Address.

WHercas a Printed Paper hath been shewed to the Justices in Sessions, Entituled, *The Humble Petition of the Grand Jury of the County of Middlesex*, and directed to the Honourable Sir *Francis Pemberton*, Kt. Lord Chief Justice of the *Kings Bench*, and to the rest of the Honourable Judges of that Court, wherein there are some expressions not at all becoming the Duty of Loyal Subjects to their Sovereign; the said Justices, of which number there were no less than seventeen of the Hundred of *Olulston* then present, have thought it their Duty, and do declare, That upon Enquiry they find, That that Petition was presented only by the Jury returned for the Hundred of *Olulston*, and not by the Grand Jury, Sworn and returned for the Body of the whole County, there being three Juries they returned; and that therefore they must express their dislike to the Contents of that Petition, (as not the Sense of the County) they well-knowing that the time for Calling and Sitting of Parliaments is the Kings Prerogative, and the Law of

the Kingdom; and that His Majesty is the only Judge when to call them, and how long they shall sit; And that it is as unreasonable for His Majesties Subjects to Dissell His Majesty in that particular, as it would for His Majesty to confine His Subjects when they shall Sow or Reap their Corn.

We Your Majesties Justices, Humbly beg Your Majesties Pardon, that we have presumed to give Your Majesty the Trouble of this Paper, but we did esteem it a Duty incumbent upon us, to let Your Majesty and Your whole Kingdom see, That Four County of *Middlesex* did no ways comply with the opinion of those, who presented that Petition; but on the contrary, they do acquiesce in Your Majesties Wisdom in the Administration and Exercise of Your Majesties Government, which we shall be always ready to support with our Lives and Fortunes.

The Humble Address of the City of *Bristol*, ordered at the general Sessions held there the 2 of May, to be presented to His Majesty.

Our ordering at the Quarter-Sessions the Publication of His Majesties Royal Declaration touching the Causes moving him to Dissolve the two last Parliaments; and at that time expressing our unanimous Consent, and great satisfaction therein: As also our full Concurrence with the Address of the Grand Jury thereupon delivered into Court the 18th of April last past, which we look upon to be but a secret and undiscovered acknowledgment for so signal a Grace and Favour purchased by His Sacred Majesty to all His Lige Subjects, in that unparalleled Gracious Declaration. Do as a farther Testimony of our most exalted Sense of His Majesties Grace and Goodness, imparted to His Majesties Subjects therein; As also of the great Felicity and Happiness we and all His good Subjects do enjoy under His most admirably Wise, Regular, and Gracious Government. Do Return our real, unfeigned, and hearty acknowledgments to His most Sacred Majesty, under whose most excellent Conduct all good Men think themselves safe in the enjoyment of their Religion, Liberties and Properties, for the preservation whereof, there can no greater Security be had or hoped for, than the Laws of the Kingdom, and His Majesties Royal Word to Govern by them, whilst the Designs of ill Men labour the Subversion of all, under the specious Pretence of Reformation, though by the same Methods that brought to pass all the Miseries of Usurpation and Tyranny that this Kingdom lately groan'd under.

Nor ought we to be less thankful to His Sacred Majesty, for the assurance he hath given His People to extirpate Popery, redress Grievances, and to Govern according to Law; than that he is Graciously pleased to mention the calling of frequent Parliaments; which Counsel added to the Crown will in all likelihood produce the good Effects of removing Fears, detection of all Plots & Machinations

Machinations whatsoever, preservation of His Majesties Royal Person, Protection of the Church established, from the Malice of her Popish and Schismatical Enemies, the great Felicities we can be blessed with.

And that our Zeal may not be wanting for the accomplishment of such good purposes, we do conceive our selves bound in Gratitude to His Majesty, as well as by our Duty and Allegiance; and are steadfastly resolved to maintain and support His Majesty and His lawful Successors, in all his and their Rights and Prerogatives, and our Religion established, with the utmost exerce of our Lives and Fortunes. And to the end that these our Resolutions might not only remain a Testimony against us, but redound to the Shame and Dishonour of our Posterity, If any should err therefrom (which God forbid) We do order that these our Sentiments and Resolutions be entred into the Records of our Sessions with this Petition to God Almighty, That he will set down length of days on His Majesties Right Hand, and on His Left Hand Riches and Honor, preserving His Royal Person and our Religion established against His and its Enemies.

An Humble Address has been likewise presented to His Majesty from the Burrough of *Hastmere* in *Surrey*.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Excellent Majesty,

WE Your Majesties most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Burgiss and Burgeses of Your Majesties ancient Burrough of *Hastmere* in the County of *Surrey*, having with infinite satisfaction read Your Majesties most Gracious Speech to Your Parliament at *Oxford*, on the one and twentieth day of *March* last: and also having heard Your Majesties like Gracious Declaration touching the Causes and Reasons that moved Your Majesty to Dissolve the two last Parliaments, according to Your Majesties Order Read publicly in our Chappel on Sunday, being the 2th day of this instant *May*, did thereupon warr a Meeting of all the Members of the said Burrough in our Common-Hall or Chamber, on this present 10th day of *May*, 1681.

Where it was by us (whose Names are hereunder Subscribed) unanimously agreed to render unto Your Majesty our most Humble Thanks for Your said Gracious Speech and Declaration; and that Your Majesty hath in both so solemnly Declared, not only, that Your Majesty will never use Arbitrary Government (which as we had no cause to fear, so neither had we thereof any jealousy) but also that Your Majesty is resolved not to suffer it in others; That the known and establish'd Laws of this Your Kingdom, shall be the Rule of Your Majesties Government; And also that it is Your meaning they should be the Measure for all proceeding under Your Majesties Authority; And that Your Majesty takes not fit to consent to a Law that shall establish another Civil War, or make it necessary to maintain a standing Force, whereby to preserve the Peace of Your Majesties Kingdoms.

For all which we do hereby render our most hearty and humble Thanks unto Your Majesty; and we do most humbly assure Your Majesty, that we shall take all possible care when Your Majesty shall think fit to call another Parliament, to send such Members from our Burrough, as we shall have good assurance are cordially and zealously affected to Your Majesties Person and Family, and also to the Government Ecclesiastical and Civil, as it is now by Law established: And we humbly beg Your Majesties Gracious Acceptance of this our Dutiful Ad-

dress from the Hands of *Sir William More, Baronet, George Woodcock, Esq, our late Burgeses, and James Greatham of Hastmere, Esq;*

Witness, *May 22*. This day was presented to His Majesty an Humble Address from the Town of *Wigan*, by the Right Honourable the *Earl of Ancram*, who served for them in the last Parliament, and by *Major-General Egerton, Burgeses of the said Town*.

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your most Sacred Majesty,

WE Your Majesties most Dutiful Subjects, the Mayor, &c. having heard the Tenor of Your Majesties most Gracious Declaration published in our Parish Church, in Obedience to Your Majesties Command, cannot but express the satisfaction we receive from the said Gracious Declaration; wherein after all the frequent and repeated assurances to the People both in Parliament and out of Your Royal intentions, to preserve inviolable the Rights and Conflitions of the Government, both in Church and State, with the just Liberties, and legal Privileges of Your Subjects, Your Majesty hath been Graciously pleased by the Declaration of Your Royal Will in the Presence of God in our Sacred Assemblies, to manifest the Religious sincerity of Your Most Gracious intentions: Wherein as we do cordially and cheerfully acquiesce, so we cannot but Declare (with our grateful acknowledgment of Your Majesties Grace and Favour therein), our esteem of it, as a sufficient and satisfactory ground to us, (and we hope to all good Subjects) to allay those cautelous fears and jealousies wherewith designing and ill-meaning Men, have endeavoured to possess the minds of Your People; and as we are intimately sensible of Your Majesties great care and watchfulness for the preservation of the Government, the security of our Peace, and the establishment of Religion (as now professed, and by Law established in the Church of *England*) so are we now more than ever convinced of Your Majesties profound Wisdom and Counsel, to choole the most suitable Methods to the attainment of such great ends; and do cheerfully depend upon Your Majesties great Judgment (as it is Your sole Prerogative) to Align the strictest time when to meet Your People in Parliament, and compleat those most Gracious intentions mentioned in Your late Declaration.

For which, as we look upon our selves as bound in Duty to return Your Majesty our humble Acknowledgments, and hearty Thanks, so we were willing to take this opportunity to Present it to Your Sacred Majesty; together with the Assurance of the unshaken Loyalty of this Your Corporation.

And though others have Addressed Your Majesty more early, yet none ever shall go before us in all Dutiful Allegiance to Your Majesty, and Fidelity to the Royal Line, and a firm Adherence to the true Protestant Religion of the Church of *England*. In defence of all which we are ready and resolved to sacrifice our Lives and Fortunes, as well against the treacherous Designs of Papists, as the restless endeavours of Factious and Schismatical Dissenters. Your Majesty has been pleased to own the Loyalty of this ancient Corporation, and immediately after Your Happy Restauration, did set a Mark of Your Royal Favour upon it: And we are humbly bold to assure Your Majesty of our firm Adherence to the same Principles of Allegiance and Loyalty; and whenever Your Princes Judgment shall think fit to Summon another Parliament, we shall endeavour to make choice of such Representatives, as shall most cheerfully concur with Your Majesty for the support of the Government, the Preservation of Your Majesties Sacred Person, and the Security of the Protestant Religion, as it is now by Law established.

And as we lay this hearty Acknowledgment at Your Sacred Feet, Humbly begging the Acceptance of our sincere in petitions, so do we earnestly beg of God the long continuance of Your Majesties Sacred Life (in which is bound up all that is near and dear to us) that so we may many years enjoy the happy Influence of Your great Wisdom and Counsel.

This Majesty having over this Address read, was pleased to tell our Lord *Ancram* and *Major-General Egerton*, That this was not the first Mark that Town had given Him of their Loyalty; that he had heretofore bid many Testimonies of it, and showed them for giving this new proof of it at this time.

Whitehal, May 24. This Evening their Majesties past by in their Barges, intending to go down the River in their Yachts, and to be back at *Windfor* on Saturday next.