

Weakness and Folly, as rank Wickedness and Treason, produced at the Proceedings against the Earl of Shaftsbury; ~~in which the Courtiers have~~ (we cannot so properly be said, as if your Majesties Sacred Name to colour a horrid design of seducing your Majesties Subjects to subvert their Lives, Liberties, and Estates to new and extravagant Powers, and to Prosecutions and Judgments altogether strange and unknown to your Majesties Law and Constitutions of this your Realm, and under the specious pretence of preserving our publick Rights, to delude us into utmost confusion.

For prevention of which destructive Innovations, as far as we are able, we do further assure your Majesty, and your Honour it shall be your Pleasure to call a Parliament, we shall endeavour to Elect such Representatives for us, as shall not only oppose all such odious Designs, and unparliamentary Subtilties, but shall labour with all imaginable Abilities to apply to the Promoters thereof the Shame and Punishment due to their abominable Crimes: From which, and their dire effects, we heartily pray to God your Majesty, and your Honour, to make you beloved at home and feared abroad, and to give you a long and prosperous Reign, to the great Comfort of your well-wishing Subjects.

Bristol. J. Easter-Sessions, 1682.

The Right Worshipful Sir Thomas Earle Knight, Mayor of the City of Bristol, and the Right Worshipful and Worshipful the Aldermen, His Majesties Justices of the Peace for this City and County, in their General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace now assembled.

WE the Grand Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King and the Body of the County of this City, having had great occasion given us by several infamous, scandalous and seditious Libels, of late dispersed here, (namely two) purporting themselves Printed by R. Janeway under the Title of the Impartial Protestant Mercury, Nos. 89 and 96. and four others, the one intituled, The sad and lamentable Cry of Oppression and Cruelty in the City of Bristol, &c. another intituled, More sad and lamentable News from Bristol, &c. another, The Devouring Infurners of Bristol, &c. and the other, The Protestant Courant, purporting it self Published by Richard Baldwin, who upon diligent Reading and Perusing of them, and Examination of the matters concerning this City therein set forth, presented himself before the Mayor and every Justice and Justice Peace, and that we therein contained, to be most manifestly represented, whereas what therein complained of is so impartially related, should have appeared to all honest and unbiased men, to be not only agreeable to Law and Reason, but commendable also for we deem it those Libels to be the contrivance of seditious and affected Persons to His Majesty and our present Establishments in Church and State, who endeavour by all means to calumniate divers of the Magistrates of this City, the Right Reverend Father in God our Lord Bishop, the Right Worshipful Sir John Knight, one of our Sheriffs, John Romkey Esq; our Town Clerk, John Hellen Esq; Chief Constable of the Ward of St. James, and several other Constables and others, who out of their Zeal to the Church and their Loyalty and Obedience to the King and his Laws, have been active and industrious in putting them in execution: And we humbly recommend to your Court, as the sense of this City, that the Authors and Dispersers of these, and all such like Libels, may be severely proceeded against, and Punished; and that the Libels themselves

may pass under some publick and exemplary mark of the displeasure and detestation of this Court. We are very glad to see and observe that your Worships Proceedings in executing the Laws against Dissenters, have been productive of such good fruits, in order to the reconciling divers of His Majesties Subjects here to the Government both in Church and State. And particularly we congratulate Erasmus Dole, (a Quaker) for his taking the Oath of Allegiance now tendered him, which he refused last Sessions, and are so far from any insolent Triumph on that occasion, that we think our selves, and all Loyal Men, obliged in Christian Charity to encourage and cherish him, and all others in returning to their Loyalty to His Majesty, and reconciling themselves to the Church.

And whereas Baldwin's Libel before-mentioned, bath the impudence to Charge the execution of the Laws here with Partiality towards Papists; for the just Vindication of this City in that particular, we Present and Affirm, That there are not, nor for seven years last past, and more, have been, to the best of our knowledge, above two Families of Papists within this City and County; one of which removed to avoid Prosecutions, and the other hath hitherto escaped it (as many scores of other Recusants have done) by sheltering themselves in the Castle, being Extra-Royalist, and their common Sanctuary; but even there, we hope the Justice of this Court will in short time find them all out, and bring them to Comfort, or some dignified Punishment.

We have lately brought to our hands another Libel, styled, The Address importing an abhorrence of an Association, &c. purporting to be Printed for R. Baldwin, which having read, it gives us just occasion to testify our concurrence with those of this City and elsewhere, who have formerly declared their Thanks to His Majesty for his most Gracious Declaration of his Reasons for Dissolving the two last Parliaments, and their Detestation and Abhorrence of this Treasonable Instrument of Association found in the Bank of Shaftsbury's Closet. And although we are not so tame as to wear Chains, we worship the Host; yet we declare our selves willing to bear the easy yoke of Obedience and Submission due to His Majesty, His heirs and Successors, and to the Laws as now established, and shall account it our Interest as well as Duty, according to our sworn Allegiance, with our Lives and Fortunes to maintain and defend Him and them against what, and with what such like damnable Associations and Confederacies whatsoever. And in regard the Printers of these Libels are but of the Liberties of this City, we humbly request your Worships to Address His Sacred Majesty in Council, and Implore the Aid and Assistance of that Honour, in order to their being dealt with according to their demerits.

It is Ordered, That Mr. Town Clerk prepare an Address to His Majesty and Council, that the Libellers of this City and Proceedings therein, might be brought to some due Punishment.

This Court being very sensible of the great Dishonour and Scandal the several Libels mentioned in the Presentment of the Grand Jury, have brought upon the Government of this City, and their Proceedings, and many of the Persons named in them, do, for the vindication of the Proceedings, and Persons aforesaid, and in detestation of such inauspicious and evil Practices, Order, That the said several Libels be at the rising of the Court, publicly burnt by the Beadle or Common Executioner, and that the Bellman attend them to Publish this Order.