

The London Gazette.

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Information having been received from several Parts of the Kingdom, That in the Execution of an Act, passed the last Session of this present Parliament, Entituled, *An Act to oblige all Persons being Papists in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland, and all Persons in Great Britain refusing or neglecting to take the Oaths appointed for the Security of His Majesty's Person and Government, by several Acts hitherto mentioned, to register their Names and real Estates, some Doubt hath arisen, whether the solemn Affirmation and Declaration of the People call'd Quakers, ought to be accepted and taken, as a full Compliance with the Directions and Intent of that Act, there being no express Provision therein for that Purpose, by Reason of which several Persons of that Perswasion, may through Ignorance of the Law, be unreasonably oppress'd. To prevent therefore any ill Consequences of that kind, it is thought proper to insert in this Gazette the following Clauses of several Acts of Parliament.*

By an Act passed in the first Year of the Reign of their late Majesties King William and Queen Mary, Entituled, *An Act for exempting their Majesties Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of England, Declaration of Fidelity in the Form therein expressed is appointed to be made and subscribed, by certain Persons Dissenters from the Church of England who scrupled the taking of any Oath.*

By an Act passed in the 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Third, Entituled, *An Act that the solemn Affirmation and Declaration of the People call'd Quakers shall be accepted instead of an Oath in the usual Form.* It is enacted, That every Quaker within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick, who shall be required upon any lawful Occasion to take an Oath, where by Law an Oath is required, shall instead of the usual Form be permitted to make his or her solemn Affirmation or Declaration in these Words, viz. *I A. B. do Declare in the Presence of Almighty God, the Witness of the Truth of what I say. Which shall be adjudged and taken to be of the same Force and Effect to all Intents and Purposes in all Courts of Justice and other Places, as if such Quakers had taken an Oath in the usual Form.*

This Act being at first to continue in Force but for the Term of Seven Years, it was afterwards by another Act passed in the 13th Year of his said late Majesty's Reign, Entituled, *An Act for continuing an Act, entituled, An Act, That the solemn Affirmation and Declaration of the People call'd Quakers shall be accepted instead of an Oath in the usual Form;* it was Enacted, That the said recited Act, with all the Clauses and Powers therein contained, should continue and be in Force for and during the further Term of Eleven Years (after the Determination of the said Act)

By an Act passed in the first Year of His present Majesty's Reign, Entituled, *An Act for making perpetual an Act of the 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of His late Majesty King William the Third, Entituled, An Act, That the solemn Affirmation and Declaration of the People called Quakers shall be accepted instead of an Oath in the usual Form; and for explaining and enforcing the said Act in Relation to the Payment of Tythes and Church-Rates; and for appointing the Form of an Affirmation to be taken by the said People called Quakers instead of the Oath of Abjuration.* After reciting the before-mention'd several Acts of the 7th, and 8th, and 13th of His said late Majesty's Reign, it is Enacted, That the said first recited Act, and all the Clauses and Powers therein contained, shall continue and be in Force for ever, as to all Oaths by Law required, or hereafter to

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be required, other than and except as in the said first recited Act is excepted.

In the said last mentioned Act, there is also inserted at large the Form of an Affirmation to be taken by the said People called Quakers instead of the Oath of Abjuration, which Form many Persons of that Perswasion scrupling and refusing to comply with and take; it was further Enacted by an Act passed in the 8th Year of His present Majesty's Reign, (Entituled, *An Act for granting the People called Quakers such Forms of Affirmation or Declaration as may remove the Difficulties which many of them lie under,*) That in all Cases where by Law any Quaker is or shall be required or permitted to make and subscribe the Declaration of Fidelity in the Form prescribed by the said first mentioned Act, or to make the solemn Affirmation or Declaration in the Form prescribed by the said Act of the 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of his said late Majesty King William the Third, or to take the Effect of the Abjuration Oath in the Form prescribed by the said Act of the first Year of His present Majesty's Reign, every such Quaker shall, instead of such first mentioned Declaration of Fidelity, make and subscribe a Declaration of Fidelity in the following Words, viz.

I A. B. do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare, That I will be true and faithful to King George, and do solemnly, sincerely, and truly profess, testify, and declare, that I do from my Heart abhor, detest, and renounce, as impious and heretical, that wicked Sect and Position, That Princes excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever. And I do declare, That no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State or Forentate, hath or ought to have, any Power, Jurisdiction, Superiority, Preheminence or Authority, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm.

And instead of the solemn Affirmation or Declaration in the Form prescribed by the said Act of the 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of his said late Majesty King William the Third, every such Quaker shall make the solemn Declaration or Affirmation following, viz.

I A. B. do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm.

And instead of the Form prescribed by the said Act of the first Year of His present Majesty's Reign, for the Effect of the Abjuration Oath, every such Quaker shall take the Effect thereof in the following Words, viz.

I A. B. do solemnly, sincerely, and truly acknowledge, profess, testify, and declare, That King George is lawful and rightful King of this Realm, and of all other His Dominions and Countries thereunto belonging. And I do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I do believe the Person pretended to be the Prince of Wales, during the Life of the late King James, and since his Decease, pretending to be, and taking upon himself the Stile and Title of King of England, by the Name of James the Third, or of Scotland, by the Name of James the Eighth, or the Stile and Title of King of Great Britain, hath not any Right or Title whatsoever to the Crown of this Realm, nor any other the Dominions thereunto belonging: And I do renounce and refuse any Allegiance or Obedience to him. And I do solemnly promise, that I will be true and faithful, and bear true Allegiance to King George, and to Him will be faithful against all traitorous Conspiracies and Attempts whatsoever, which shall be made against his Person, Crown, or Dignity. And I will do my best Endeavour