

Nation were for taking such measures as to preserve the Peace of Europe without entering into a War, and keeping the Ballance in its due Poize, without making use of such Means as certainly would incline it to the French Interest. The most Christian King had not such a Distrast of His own Strength, nor such an ill Opinion of above Two hundred thousand compleat Troops, and as well regulated as any in Christendom, that he stood in fear of any Insults whatsoever, but was willing to see his Grandson not mount His Throne from Heaps of slaughter'd Carcasses, or swim to the Possession of Both Indies thro' a Sea of Blood; and tho' 'tis well known He might have acted on the offensive Part, and been very Troublesome to some Neighbours, He made it His Choice to wait the Motions of those he had Reasons to call Enemies, and stood prepar'd only to resist Force by Force, should any be so hardy as to attack him. Since therefore he was Powerful and strongly provided with such numerous Armies, those cannot be thought to be Friends to France, that took time to put themselves likewise in a Posture of Defence, that endeavour'd to oppose His Designs without a Declaration of War, and made Armaments by Sea and Land, in hopes that the report of their Strength might induce him to stand by the Peace, in surrendring up such Cautionary Places to England and Holland, as should be agreed on by the Parties concern'd.

What their Sense was, the Author of the three Essays told us before the Parliament sat; the manner of his expressing it speaks it to be publish'd with their Allowance, and those who know his Conversation with them, were persuaded it was. " If any among us (says he) " seem at present willing to embrace peaceful " Councils, and to decline entering upon im- " mediate Action; 'tis not that they doubt " themselves, or dread the adverse Strength, or " that

" that their ancient Enmity to *France* is buried in
 " Oblivion. --They are not so apprehensive of
 " Coping with any foreign Strength, as they are
 " fearful they shall be compell'd to enter into
 " fresh Conflicts with the Enemies of *ENG-*
 " *LAND*, whom they had almost subdu'd, &c.
 " Their Ears can never endure the Cries of the
 " Poor, for want of Work, &c. 'Tis a mon-
 " strous *Tenderness and Compassion*, which can en-
 " dure rather to see Popery and Slavery display
 " their Banners in this Land, than to behold the
 " Calamities which a new War must bring upon
 " their Country. If he can see how they can be
 " kept out without a War, he sees things in quite
 " another Light than what any honest Englishman
 " does.

Answ. *A Gentleman in a great Station who must
 needs be a Privy Councillor at least, would scarce drop
 any word that should let Count Uratistaw know that
 the Bent of the Court was not for a War, and if
 the Author would reflect with himself who got Mc-
 ney the last War, and heap'd up considerable Trea-
 sures, who manag'd the Funds that were given
 for the Publick Security, for their own Private
 Interest, and occasion'd such a Deficiency in 'em,
 as is now but too visible; he would scarce bring them
 in for Sticklers against it. Besides, His Majesty
 their Master's Martial Genius, His aversion to the
 French Interest, and his desire to bring down her
 growing Greatness, are such convincing Arguments
 for those that are in Places under him to be of the
 same Sentiments, not to enter into Discourse with the
 Emperor's Minister that should be so unpleasant to
 him, and which he could not but expect would come
 to the King his Master's Ear, who had espous'd the
 Austrian Family's Interest. As for Dr. Dave-
 nant's Book, the Arguments of it are of such
 weight with all thinking People, and the Reasons for
 a Peace so poignant and strong, that if the House
 O 2 did*

did actually allow he spoke their Sense, they must needs acknowledge he has done 'em all imaginable Justice in expressing it.

One would think he thought but slightly of a War, when he tells us, that one of the greatest things to be dreaded in it is, that 'twill bring those Men into play again, who never gave us the least suspicion of their being in any other Interest than that of their Country. 'Tis very easy to perceive what his Designs are, both in running down those Men, and labouring to give us a dismal Idea of a War: But he and his Friends tell us, that his Book shews him to be plainly for a War. 'Twas cunning in him to say something, for fear of falling under the rage of an injured Nation; and 'twas Policy to grant him a Dispensation to do it, lest by being too plain in handling an odious Subject, he might put it out of his Power to do any Service for the future. He seems sometimes to write for a War, but (which shew'd his Inclination) voted against it amongst the 161: he ought indeed, he said, to do otherwise, but *Ja-k H--w* smil'd so pleasantly upon him, that he could not divide against him.

Ans. If 'tis the Interest of the People of England to have the Publick Treasures exhausted, and those entrusted with the care of it that were of slender Fortunes, and consequently would endeavour to raise themselves by the sipping it; if they acted for their Countries good that postpon'd every other Consideration to their own enrichment, and like a certain Pay-master, that tells the Publick Money over a Grid-lion, and challenge's all for his own that fall's thro' it, got incredible Estates from very small Beginnings, then the Dr. is infallibly in the wrong. But, if it be not fitting that those who have been guilty of such Male-Administration, should be brought into the Ministry again, if the
Id. a

Ans^w. A Person that writes impartially, must as well shew the Difficulty of an Enterprize, and point out the Misfortunes that may casually attend it, as buoy up his Reader's Imagination with the hope of Success; and if the Dr. tells us we can Reap little by a War, &c. it's no more than what is visible to any Man of Sense, since we have no Pretensions on our own Parts, either upon France and Spain, and whatever Articles are concluded on between the Emperor, France, and Holland, as the Result of a War, it is to be feared, neither Ostend or Newport will fall into our Hands, any more than the Rich Town of Carthage, since we have much the same Right and Title to the Mines of Peru and Mexico, as we have to any individual strong Hold in Flanders. As for the French Greatness, I presume, we can say nothing to detract from it, and must agree with the Dr. that unless the Spaniards revive that Courage which has been in so long a state of Declension, that their Antient Monarchy's Grandeur will be forgotten and swallowed up in the Glory of that which has now furnish'd it with a Prince, that cannot make it Greater than the Kingdom he drew his first Breath in.

If this be so, that the Power of the French is grown too great to be resisted, and we have no hopes but from the Spaniards taking good Measures, we are in a very miserable Condition. But hold, he shews us some hopes yet, " If they can so prevail, as to
 " make their young Prince become a good
 " Spaniard; if they can divide him from French
 " Councils, --- if the quiet Reception he is bid
 " to find make French Councils, and French Sup-
 " ports no longer necessary to him, those fea-
 " will be somewhat allay'd, which we now be-
 " lieve under. But are there any hopes that
 " will be so? Yes sure, very great; " He giv-
 " us promising Hopes of his Person, and that
 " man

martial young Prince, if he be endow'd with
 any share of his Grandfather's Conduct and
 Wisdom, may put *Spain* into a better Condition
 than it has lately been, to oppose *France* in
 any Attempts it may hereafter make upon
 the Liberties of *Europe*.

An. w. *Either the Spaniards must take mea-
 sures disagreeable to the French Interest, or the
 Emperors Army in Italy is not likely to make very
 Successful Campaigns, or keep Garrison in the
 Castle of Milan; and if they can't prevail with
 their young Prince to become a Good Spaniard, 'tis
 very probable he will be accounted an Excellent
 Frenchman. It is our Business therefore undoubt-
 edly, not to fall out with him, but since we have
 Recogniz'd his Accession to the Throne, to live in
 Amity and a good Understanding with him, that
 he may not be forc'd to put his whole Dominions un-
 der the Protection of France, and surrender up
 the Netherlands to his Grandfather and his Heirs
 for ever by a Treaty of Partition, which would
 be very disagreeable to England and Holland, in
 order to preserve the rest of that vast Monarchy
 to himself.*

O wonderful Contrivance to serve his Masters
 and perluade *England* to lay aside all thoughts of
 War! Could he expect to do it by such little
 fetches as these, to scare a great and warlike Peo-
 ple with his paltry representations of the Power
 of *France*? Or to lull a wise Nation asleep with
 such a silly prospect of Security? Yet this is one
 of the great Machins which *C---t Tal---rd* the
 chief *Fr---ch* Engineer in *England* has made use
 of, not only to bomb great Ministers, and every
 thing he has a mind to reduce to Ashes, but to
 batter down all the strong Holds and Fortresses
 of our Religion and Liberties. This is he that
 is

is caref'd by great Men of our own Court; this is he that is employ'd to *teach young Gentlemen the Business of the Nation*; who is to tell them in print a little before the Session begins, what they are to do the next Session. If this be our Condition, that the weighty Affairs of the Kingdom must be manag'd by Senators, who are to learn their Wisdom from such a Wretch as this; in Charity we ought to pray for them, in the Language of our Saviour, *Forgive them, for they know not what they do*; but for our selves, in those which we write over the Doors of Pest-houses, *Lord have Mercy upon us.*

Ans^w. Now the Man of Argument is fallen into a downright Rapture, and is troubled with an Oratorical fit by way of Exclamation! The Dr. said, the young King of Spain gives us promising hopes of his Person, &c. and may learn from his Grandfather's Politicks how to Oppose France in any Attempts on the Liberties of Europe. Where is the harm in these Expressions, thou great Lover of Interjections; that art mov'd by such a sudden Passion of the Mind? Does an Ambitious King mind the Ties of Blood, or Obligations of Kindred? Will a Prince that rules over a Jealous turbulent, and Proud People as the Spaniards are, so far endanger the Loss of his Crown, as to act contrary to the Sentiments of his Subjects. Have not they been bred up in an Aversion to the French Nation, and almost sworn at the Altars in their very Infancy as Hannibal against Rome, to maintain a perpetual Enmity with 'em. Are not they at this time uneasy at the Conduct of the Regency that have permitted so many French Gentlemen to attend their King, and will they ever shake off
these

their Resentments for some indignities lately offer'd by them to the Natives? 'Tis impossible they must lose their very Natures before they can part with their Hatred; and if the Dr. is Caress'd by great Men of the Court, its certainly a sign that he cannot be in the Interest of France, or King Will. must have a very Treacherous Ministry.

If he, who in times of the greatest Danger, when it most nearly concern'd France to try the power of her Gold here in England, has been highly courted by her Talents, and given very great demonstrations of his Zeal to gratify the Ambition of that Kingdom, can make himself and Interest, not only to be protected in his Insolencies, but to be courted likewise by a Party, and besides all this, to have the Honour confer'd upon him, of being made the Leader of the Blind; 'tis easy to see what in a short time must be our Doom: that between the Management and Conduct of Men of too much Intreague, and too little Understanding, we must fall under the Dominion of French Tyranny and Popery.

Ans. An Ingenious Man will be caress'd by Men of all Persuasions, and Count Tallard was such a Judge of Conversation, that he could not miss him amongst the rest of those Polite Gentlemen he made his Court to; and if to discourse with a French Minister, or sit at Table with him, is a Token of being Brib'd by him, we have several Noble Peers, and amongst them great Officers of State that have spent an Evening with his late Excellency, and have certainly been Partakers of his Largesses. But without doubt our present Ministry is of another stamp, and the Gentlemen in it are too well satisfy'd with their Places of Honour and Profit, to contribute any thing towards the support of an Interest that is contrary to theirs; and the Dr. is Remarkable for such a Love to the welfare of his Country, and such an earnest desire for its Prosperity, that he is ready to forego any mercenary Advantage whatever, and prefer

its Consideration to all things that are accounted valuable.

This the *Kentish* Gentlemen thought they had Reason to fear, would be the Effect of the Measures taken by our Parliament, before they offer'd their Petition. To descend to the particulars of their Proceedings, which brought them under the so universal Censure and Displeasure of the People, would be too invidious an Undertaking, and raise this little Discourse to a much greater bulk than I design'd. My Intention is only to shew, that the Gentlemen had Reasons to offer their Petition at that time. If one or two good ones are sufficient to justify them, and they may be taken notice of without any great Offence, I must desire my Reader to rest satisfied with my mentioning them. Matters that are nicer and not so well bear touching, I leave to be handled by Men of more Penetration, whose Fears (I will not say Concern) for the Publick are greater perhaps than mine are.

Ans. Popery and Slavery have been at too great a distance from Kent, or any other Part of the Kingdom for these twelve Years last past, to make the subject apprehensive of any ill Effects from it: And his Reasons must be better than any he has given yet to persuade us to believe that his five WORTHIES fears had any grounds for 'em, at least such as deserve to be handled by an Abler Pen than his own, that has such a mighty concern for the security of the Publick.

If those Petitioners were really persuaded that *Fr---ch* Gold had any influence in the management of Publick Affairs, 'twas a sufficient Reason for them to endeavour by such a Petition, either to make the *Ho---se* of *Com---* take other Measures, or to dispose the other parts of the Kingdom to follow their Example. That they were of this Persuasion, we have very good Reasons to believe. We know what one of the five Gentle-

men

en said in a very publick Place, some Weeks fore the Petition was offer'd, to Sir Fr---cis Child, a Member of Parliament, concerning the Inclination of the Ho---se of Commons to serve the Fr---ch K---g. 'Tis not probable that that Gentleman would have been so bold to speak openly, to a Member who was entirely in the Interest of that Party which he suspected, words which the other call'd Seditious, if he had not reckon'd it a Service he ow'd his Country, in a very great and dangerous Crisis.

Answ. *A Man cannot be really persuaded of the truth of a Matter, unless he satisfies himself from Ocular Demonstration, or other indubitable Proofs; therefore the Kentish Petitioners must either actually have seen Count Tallard distributing his French Gold, or receiv'd the Truth of it from unquestionable Authority, or according to their Advocate's own Argument which is a convertible Proposition, their Petition must be groundless; and 'tis not to be suppos'd but any one of that Company which had Forehead enough to behave themselves so Irreverently to the whole Body of Parliament, would not stick to affront Sir Francis Child who was only a single Member of the House.*

About the time they petition'd, this suspicion was grown so universal, that what a Gentleman told Sir Ed---rd Sey---r in Hampshire, near the time the Parliament rose, that *we were bought and sold*, was the Voice of the People every where. This Jealousy must run very high, and there must sure be very good grounds for it, when a very great Lord could say, in a very August Assembly, just two days after that Petition was deliver'd, that some things that were done, shew'd that there was Fr---ch Money in the Case.

Answ. *Without doubt Sir Edward Seymour return'd a suitable Answer to the Hampshire Gentleman, and was not wanting in his vindication of that House he had the Honour to be a Member of: and what a Great Lord said in a very August Assembly*

was spoken in relation to other Peoples being suspect of Bribery not the House of Commons whose Honour he has the highest Deference for.

But this was not all. Those Gentlemen say as I observ'd before, that not only all the leading Men of that Party, which bore sway in the *Ho---se of Com---ns*, but some leading Men in the Nation likewise, us'd all possible endeavour to drive People from the thoughts of War. That those Gentlemen, and the bulk of the People thought the greatest Service that could be done to *Fr---ce*, and that the certain consequence of that would be, that in a little time we must be content with what Religion, what Liberty, and what Trade *Fr---ce* would be pleas'd to allow us. This being their sense of things, 'twas a sufficient Reason for them to do what they did.

Answ. He has already prov'd the Kentish Gentlemen's sight was not good, because they could see nothing at all of the Matter, but took it upon Hearsay, and yet he dwells upon the Commendation of the clearness of their Forecast, and brings in the Bulk of the People, that is the whole to Justify what was done at a Goal delivery, and vindicate what neither the Bench of Justices could add a sanction to by their subscriptions, or the W. seacres their Impertinent Deputy by their Imprudent behaviour at the Bar of the House of Commons.

What a happy Nation should we be, if others would imitate them in their Zeal, and virtuous Concern for the Publick! Now is the time for *Englishmen* to shew themselves. Things are brought to the highest Crisis that ever was seen in *Europe*. *Fr---ce* plainly designs the Universal Monarchy: 'Tis War only that can determine, whether she shall have it or no, If she prevail, our Fate is manifest we must come under the Dominion of *French* Popery and Tyranny. If she miscarry, the Misery and Devastation which she

she will bring into her Kingdom, will be greater than, perhaps, she may be ever able to surmount. In this Case *England* will not only continue in Possession of her Religion and Liberties, but become the greatest Nation in the Western World. What our Fate shall be, depends upon our Management now.

Ans. What a senseless Nation should we be, should other Countys imitate their follys, and take a Pattern from their unadvis'd Conduct! What an unhappy State would the People of England labour under, should they take the same Resolutions to Affront their Superiors, and fall out with those Patriots that have done as much for the Preservation of these Realms, as ever Parliament did or People could expect! Our Alliances are maintain'd, Our Fleets are out at Sea, Payment is taken care of for the Publick Debts, and Parliamentary engagements to the lasting Honour of this Session are once more accounted sacred. What could be the done on the Part of the Subject, or hop'd for to the Assistance of the Prince?

'Tis plain, that without a War we are undone, so we may with it, if those who have the Management of Publick Affairs, should happen to be in the Interest of the abdicated Family, or common Enemy, or should be under the old Prejudices against the *Dutch*, which were in the late Reigns. We know what suspicions we have had, and what grounds there were for them; this makes it absolutely necessary, that the Nation represent it self anew. 'T would be very surprizing to see the present *Par---nt* sit again, when a great Party in it has given such Umbrage to the Nation; when they were thought (as far as it was possible for them to venture, without plainly discovering themselves, and becoming too notorious) to do all that *Fr---ce* could desire to have done. If their Conduct throughout the Session was such as made it evident, that their Address to the King, towards the latter end,

was

was only design'd to prevent their Dissolution, or secure their Election if they should be Dissolv'd; 'twould be as strange to see this Parliament continue, as 'twill be to see some chosen again, if it should be dissolv'd. 'Tis upon that Election the Fate of *England* depend: if care be taken to chuse Persons, who love our present Protestant Settlement, and have no manner of Byass to *France*, or the Abdicated Family, nothing can prevent the Ruin of *France*, and *England's* being made a great and flourishing Kingdom.

Ans^r. 'Twould be very surprizing therefore should His Majesty give Ear to some Ill dispos'd Peoples Advice, and dissolve that Parliament that has shewn such Loyalty to his sacred Person, such an Affection for his Confederates, and such a Zeal for the Protestant Interest both at Home and Abroad, that no Session can Parallel. More Money has indeed been rais'd in the late War, but never more in time of Peace when so many Debts were left unpay'd by the precedent Parliaments, and so many Incumbrances on the Publick Faith, so that it is not to be doubted, but the same King that has been supported by 'em should ask Advice of the same Councillors, and that Princes who promis'd to meet 'em again in Parliament next Winter, and gave 'em such instances of his Satisfaction in his Speech at their last Prorogation, will continue the sense he has of their good Services, and have a relyance on their Fidelity so far as to be in a farther condition of returning 'em thanks again for what they shall do for him.

APPENDIX.

1. A List of such Members of this present H— of Com—, as refus'd the Voluntary Association in 1695.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| SIR J—es Eth—dge. | H—ry F—nch. |
| Ld. H—de. | Sir E—d N—ris. |
| J—n M—st—n. | Th—s R—ley. |
| J—y Fl—ng. | J—mes B—rty. |
| J—n Tr—m. | J—n K—ston. |
| J—s Gw—n. | Sir J—n Tr—an. |
| Anth—ny H—nd. | H—ry H—mes. |
| Sir E—d S—wr. | Sir J—n L—son G—re |
| J—n Gr—il. | Sir H—ry G—gh. |
| Th—s Str—ys. | J—n L—knor. |
| Th—s F—ke of Dorf. | W—m Br—ley. |
| R—d E—nds. | F—s Gr—il. |
| J—n H—w. | Sir Ch—r M—de. |
| R—d H—w. | R—rt B—rty. |
| Th—s Br—ton. | W—m H—vey. |
| P—r Sh—ly. | H—ry P—nil. |
| Sir J—n B—lles. | S—l S—ft. |
| G—rt D—en. | R—t B—ley. |
| Sir R—rt J—son. | Sir J—ry J—rys. |
| | Sir J—n C—ay. |

B. Names

**B. Names of the Persons Commit-
ted by the H...se of Com...n...
this Session.**

To the Tower. { JOHN Parkhurst, Esq;
John Paschal, Esq;
William Cotesworth, Esq;
Samuel Shepberd, Esq;

To the Gate-house. { Mr. William Colepeper.
Mr. Thomas Colepeper.
Mr. David Polbill.
Mr. Justinian Chappneyes.
Mr. William Hamilton. } These were taken into
Custody of the Serjeant at
Arms, and after sent to the
Gate-house.

To New-gate. { Mr. Laurence.
Mr. Glover.

Taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms. { Mr. Edward Martyn,
Mr. John Dunmil.
Mr. Clayton.
Mr. Perks.
Mr. Story.
Mr. Jeffreys.
Mr. Bourman.
Mr. Mason.
Mr. John Newark.
Mr. Marsh.
Mr. Bransby.
Charleswood Lawton, Esq;
Mr. Alexander Cutting. } Mr. William Adye.
Mr. Edw. Allen.
Mr. Julius Samborne.
Mr. Joseph Whimbleton.
Mr. Warham.
Mr. John Haysham.
Mr. William Clifton.
Mr. Edward Whitacre
Mr. John Whitbrough.
Mr. James Buckley, Jun.
Charles Mason, Esq;
Mr. James Buckley, Sen.
Thomas Terry.

F I N I S.