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### The Second Part of Englands New-Chaines Discovered: Or, a Sad Representation of the Uncertain and Dangerous Condition of the Common-Wealth: Directed to the Supreme Authority of England, the Representors of the People in Parliament Assembled. / by Severall Wel Affected Persons Inhabiting the City of London, Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, Hamblets, and Places Adjacent, Presenters and Approvers of the Late Large Petition of the Eleventh of September. 1648

Lilburne, John, 1614?-1657

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The second Part  
OF  
ENGLANDS  
New-Chaines  
DISCOVERED;

Or a sad Representation of the uncertain  
and dangerous condition of the  
COMMON-WEALTH.

DIRECTED

To the Supreme Authority of *England*, the  
Representors of the People in Parliament assembled,

By severall wel affected persons inhabiting  
the City of *London*, *Westminster*, the Borough of  
*Southwark*, *Hamblets*, and places adjacent,  
presenters and approvers of the late  
large Petition of the Eleventh of  
*September*. 1648.

All persons who are assenting to this *Representation*,  
are desired to subscribe it, and bring in their Subscrip-  
tions to the Presenters and Approvers of the  
foresaid Petition of the 11 of *Sepr*.

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*London*, Printed in the Year, 1649.

Printed in the Year 1704

The Second Part

OF

ENGLANDS

New-Chances

DISCOVERED

Of a sad Representation of the present  
and dangerous condition of the

COMMON-WEALTH

DIRECTED

To the Supreme Authority of Great-Britain  
Represented in their present Assembly

By several well affected persons inhabiting  
the City of London, within the Borough of  
Southwark, Vintria, and places adjacent  
present and approved of the late  
large Petition of the Borough of  
Southwark, 1704

All persons who are affected to this Petition  
are desired to subscribe it, and bring in their names  
to the Petitioners and approvers of the late  
Petition of the Borough of Southwark

Printed in the Year 1704

To the Supreme Authority of  
E N G L A N D , the Representors of the  
People, in Parliament Assembled.

T H E  
Sad Representation  
*of the uncertain and dangerous Condi-  
tion of the Common-wealth : By the  
Presenters and Approvers of the  
Large Petition of the 11. of  
September, 1648.*

**I**f our hearts were not over-charged with the sense of the present miseries and approaching dangers of the Nation, your small regard to our late serious Apprehensions, would have kept us silent; but the misery, danger, and bondage threatned is so great, imminent, and apparent, that whilst we have breath, and are not violently restrained, we cannot but speak, and even cry aloud, until you hear us, or God be pleased otherwise to relieve us.

Nor should you in reason be withheld from considering what we present you withal, through any strangeness that appeareth therein; For what was more incredible, than that a Parliament trusted by the people to deliver them from all kinds of oppression, and who made so liberal effusion of their blood, and waste of their estates (upon pretense of doing thereof) should yet so soon as they were in power, oppress with the same kind of oppressions, which yet was true in the times of *Hollis* and *Stapletons* faction, and who, (as the King and Bishops had done before) laboured for an Army to back and perpetuate them therein.

Nor were our Petitions then presented (wherein we justly complained of those oppressions, and fore-warned them of the danger

and that notwithstanding the prevailing power of the Army, those who had usurped the Authority of the House, and Voted a new waire, were nevertheless permitted to sit: and Vote there, and that contrary to the importunate desires of the Agitators, and the Remonstrance of the Army: and then one of the first fruits of this their conjunction was the passing of an Ordinance for Tythes, upon trebble dammages, which the corrupt Clergy had presented (in the absence of the Speaker) to *Pelham's* Parliament; and the burning of *Mr Biddies* Book, by the Common Hangman; and imprisoning his person: and that notwithstanding their glorious March through London, the prerogative Prisoners in the Tower, New-gate, and else where, were utterly neglected, and the Council of those friends sleighted, who had been instrumental, even to the losse of some, and the hazard of all their lives, to make an easie and unbloody passage for the Army into Southwark and the City. Upon observation of these and abundant more particulars, which we could ennumerate, we concluded, that the Councils of the Army were not steered as at their first engagement, by the select persons chosen therunto, nor for the ends in that engagement expressed; but by some other powerfull and over-ruling influences, that intended other matters then were pretended, and that laboured by all possible means to convert the honest endeavours of good men in the Army, and else-where, and the happy success God had blessed them withall, to the advantage of their Lusts, Pride, and Domination: And as time came on, it more and more appeared, that they intended meerly the establishment of themselves in power and greatnesse, without any regard at all to the performance of their promises and engagements, or any respect to the faith and credit of the Army, or to the peace and prosperity of the Common wealth, and that they walked by no rules or principles either of honesty or conscience; but (as meer pollicitians, were governed altogether by occasion, and as they saw a possibility of making progress to their designs, which course of theirs they ever termed a waiting upon providence, that with colour of Religion they might deceive the more securely.

Now that this may appear no slander, we entreat that without partiality, their after proceedings may be thoroughly scan'd: as first, at *Kingston* it was proposed by the Agitators, friends of *London*, *Southwark*, and the places adjacent, that the Tower, City, and  
Borough

Borough, might be secured by the well-affected Inhabitants, and not by Souldiers, that so trade and traffique might be preserved, which otherwise would be driven away (as it soon after proved) And that it was hoped they intended not to secure any place by Souldiers, when the well-affected Inhabitants were able to secure it. Which advise proceeded as well from our respects to the City and neighbour places, as upon fears of what we know to be the practise of other Tyrants (and therefore doubted would be exercised by those) namely, the garisoning great Towns, thereby to keep the people, as well in poverty, as in continual aw and subjection.

Which advise, though assented unto by the Agitators, was yet rejected by the grand Officers, and a new Regiment raised, to the further charge of the Common-wealth; the Proposers themselves being dismissed with reproches, and the Agitators thrust out, and not permitted to observe how they were dealt withal.

At which time also its very remarkable with how much height of State they observed the King at *Hampton Court*, visiting him themselves, and permitting thousands of people dayly to visit him, to kiss his hand, and to be healed by him, whereby his party in the City, and every where, were exceedingly animated, his Agents being as familiar at the head-quarters, as at the Court. Then on a sudden, when the House complied not with their purposes, in all hast it was to be purged, and thereupon they publish a large Remonstrance, *Aug. 18.* stuffed with publike reasons, to shew the justnes and necessity thereof; but the House again complying, through the sight of their Remonstrance, though no whit changed in respect of its corruption; & they finding, if it were purged, it would not be for their design; they make nothing of their former resolution, but continue it in its corrupt condition, and sit with them themselves.

Then they fall to work again about the King, and send the propositions of *New-castle* to him, which they knew, and were agreed he should not sign; in the mean time, they so wrought the King by deep promises, and hopes of restauration, as that he inclined much to countenance the Army, gave out words in their favour, and in his answer to the House, prefer'd their Proposals, before the Parliaments Propositions; in lieu thereof, the great ones of the Army themselves, endeavoured the revival of a Treaty, and some of them in the House, were very violent against motions of no more Address, and expressed it was the sense of the Army that further Address should be made, and that except they would make

Addresses of another nature to the King, they could not promise them the assistance of the Army; and accordingly they take pains to work every man at the head-quarters; upon which, petitions were attempted in the Army, in favour of a Treaty, and some conscientious, but weak people, were drawn to second their design, with a Petition for a Personal Treaty, which they had ready at the Houle dore.

These strange and mysterious proceedings, occasion'd a new face of things in the Army, many of the Officers being much distast'd thereat, & whole Regiments chusing new Agents to look after the publike, as fearing things were runing head-long into a most dangerous condition: The far greater number of the Officers, would not by any means indure to hear of the Armies compliance with the King, and the Agents finding all former engagements, promises, and declarations broken, and utterly neglected, and the Common wealth in danger of utter dissolution, produce an *Agreement of the People, upon grounds of Common Right, for uniting of all unprejudiced people therein*; the great Officers very much oppose it a while, as having set up another Interest: but seeing the same take with the Army, profess *though at present their judgements could not so far close with it as to act for it, yet they would never oppose it.* Hereupon the whole frame of the design alters, and the matters in projection with them, were how to disengage themselves, and be rid of the King, and how likewise to discountenance and keep under the discerning party in the Army. In order to the first, they cast about how to get the King into the Isle of *Wight*, where they might both easier keep others from him, and the more entirely possess him themselves; and that he might with willingness be hurried thither, they work upon his fear; suggesting to him, that there was an intencion in some violent persons to murder him, and perswade him to leave that in a letter, as the cause of his remove. To make which the more credible, they wrought *L. Col. Hen. Lilburn* to asperse his brother *John* (who then stood in the way of the great men of the Army) with a base & abhorrid resolution of being one that intended to murder the King; to the proof whereof they would never suffer the Asperfer to be brought (though solicited thereunto by a Petition from divers well-affected persons) but instead thereof, for that perfidious service, they advanced him to the government of *Timmouth Castle*, above his brother *Robert*, where retain-

retaining the leaven of his Apostacy, which the Gen. Officers had laid in him, he suffered the deserved reward of a perfidious traitor.

And though the General Officers enclined him to this revolt themselves, as well by their example, as by countenancing him in the beginning thereof; and though for the same he incurred the extreme displeasure of his Father, and Kindred, yet are both his Father and Kindred by the Officers themselves and their Associates aspersed with the fact, as if tainted with guilt and contamination thereof.

Thus did they kill two birds with one stone, framing a Name for them which of all others is most distastefull to the People, and was therefore most likely to beget a beleeve of the pretended affa-  
 sination.

Where (by the way) we desire it may be observed, that notwithstanding the word *Leveller* was framed and cast upon all these in the Army (or elsewhere) who are against any kind of Tyranny, whether in King, Parliament, Army, Council of State, &c. And though it was not so much as beleeved to concern those upon whom they cast it, the inventers having often professed as much, yet have they both themselves and by their Instruments industriously propagated the same, and insinuated both this and other slanders of us into the hearts of all the easy and credulous people they could meet withall.

But to returne, The King thus removed, they judge themselves at good leisure to deal with the Agreers for the People, and so suddainly violent they became in that work, that at the first Rendezvous in New-ware, they shot a Souldier to death, for pursuing the ends of the Engagement at New-market, and for insisting upon the Agreement for the People: unworthily abused Major *Skett*, a Member of this House, sent him up a prisoner, and accused him and Col. *Rainsborough* for appearing in behalf of the Agreement, and therewithall sent Col. *Ayres*, Major *Cobbet*, Capt. *Bray*, and many others after them prisoners to Windsor, where, as Parties, Judges, and Juries, the Officers did what they would against them, sentencing some to death, others to disgracefull punishments, restraining and releasing at pleasure, and with as much Arbitrarinesse as ever was in the world, and could not be dissuaded though Mr *Salmarsh* and others bore full testimony against the cruelty and injustice thereof. Hereupon at the House they procured at once the imprisonment of five cordial Citizens, for just-  
 (being



fyng the Agreement of the People, and requiring Justice for the blood of the Souldier that was shot at Ware, disfranchizd them, and under the notion of London Agents forbade their meetings. And when now they thought they had moulded and qualified the Army to their own bent, and had gratified their complying Officers, with the cruelty upon the Levellers, (for so they have stiled all who have manifested any sence of Common Right) and had found that they could be nothing so great, rich, and potent, upon a close with the King, and that it would be impossible for them to hold either Officer or Souldier firm to them, in case of such composition. Hereupon utterly to frustrate his hopes that way, they prevail with the House to Vote no more Addresses; and so vanisht away all their glorious flattery of the King and his Party, and their notorious dissimulation appeared, abusing thereby the Faith of the Army, and making it cleer to all discerning men, that such as could so break with one sort of men, will make no Conscience of keeping faith with any.

Their next work was to new-mould the City, and make it theirs, for which purpose they brought some Regiments of Horse and Foot, to White Hall and the Muse, to the extreme discontent of the City, and provoke them further by keeping their Lord Mayor, and some of their Aldermen in the Tower, without admitting them to a Legal Tryal, though upon Petitions and earnest Desires: at last they were referred to be tryed by the Lords, contrary to the known Law of the Land; but their jurisdiction being disclaimed, after a while they were released without any Tryal at all, their end being accomplisht, which was the terror of the City, and changing the Magistrates thereof, so as should best serve their designes.

About this time also they began to exercise their Marshal power over persons not of the Army, and did sentence Mr *William Thomson* to death at White Hall. And then also they began to new-mould the Army, and for that end, (though the new-raised Regiment for the Tower was thought no burthen, yet upon pretence of easing the charge of the Common wealth, the Life-Guard must be disbanded, because consisting of discerning men, faithfull to their Country and former promises, and many others of like principles were pickt out of every Regiment; the designe being by weeding the choicest and best resolved men, to make the Army wholly mercenary, slavish, and the Executioners of a few mens

All which those good men perceiving and resolving thereupon not to be disbanded, according to the Agreement at *New market*, (in the ends therein expressed were fully gained, they were enforced therunto by Tyrannical Sentences of Imprisonment and Death (though the Officers themselves had formerly refused to disband upon command of Parliament upon the same grounds and strength of the same engagement:) By all which 'tis evident, that according to the maxime of Politicians, they judge themselves loose, where other men are bound; and that all obligations are to them Transitory and Ceremoniall, and that indeed every thing is good and just only, as it is conducing to their corrupt and ambitious Interests.

And thus the most hopefull opportunity that ever *England* had for recovery of our *Freedom*, was spent and consumed, in such their uncertaine, staggering motions, and arbitrary, irrational Proceedings, whereby all parties became extremely exasperated, as People that had been merely mock'd and cheated by faire promises, and under the most religious Pretences, &c. Heereby the Army, that had but few moneths before been the joy and hope of all sorts of Rational People, was made a by word, a hissing and a Reproch to the whole Nation: In such that those (in hope of their large good Promises, and protests in their *Declarations*) who thought nothing too precious for them, now grudged them bread & were ready to stone them in all places where they came; Trade fled, Poverty increased, and disclements abounded, till at length broke out such a flame, as no time had ever seen before; and no doubt was the proper issue of such horrid delusion, ministering such matter for a generall Rising and Revolt, as a former policy could never attain to, and more threatening the ruine of the Nation then all the former forces and stratagems of the enemies; and which is rightly to be imputed to the unjust pardall and perfidious dealings of these men.

But when they saw what a strange predicament they had brought themselves into, and which they would never believe, till it was come upon them (no more then now they will) they had before manifested a greater obstinacy, then now they did a serious Repentance (which yet as the sequell proves, was but counterfeit) though (as God knoweth) we were overjoyed to believe it real: Acknowledging, with the greatest expressions of sorrow, that

they had walked by *corrupt Politick Principles*; That they had been to blame in Actings against honest men; That the name of *Leveler*, *Jesuit* or the like reproaches, should never be more heard amongst them, that if ever the Nation be happy, it must be by a conjunction in the *Levelers Principles*; calling upon all, to lay by all *Discontents*, to forget and forgive, and to unite all against the *Common enemy* and promising with greatest asseverations, That if God, upon our joynt endeavors, should be pleased to deliver us out of this *Sea of danger*, that they would never divide from just *Principles*, nor in the least discountenance honest men as they have done, nor endeavor to set up a party, but cast them selves upon an *agreement of the People* for the sure settlement of the *Peace of the Nation*: but how and what performance they have made, that we shall intreat, may be impartially observed in the ensuing story; And for a full and sincere proofe of their *Relapſe*, & Discovery of their *dissimulation*; No sooner had they through Gods blessing and the assistance of their received friends) finished their worke at *Wolcheste*, but presently they call to question certaine Persons, that had appeared at *St. Albans* in behalf of Captaine *Keynes*; chusing rather to forsake the *service*, then to be commanded by Captaines, that had been violent against them, that had drunke the Kings *Health* upon their knees, and profest they could rather fight against the *Levelers* then  *Cavaliers*, and these (according to their old wont) they *sentenc'd to Death*, and soon after releast them, as finding or supposing this kinde of *Discipline* most essentiall, to the breaking and debasing the spirits of the *English*.

And because Col. *Rainborow* had ever opposed their unjust *Proceedings*, they withdraw him from the *Army*, by a plaintive but onely a *Tutular command at sea*, where by the strainness of his *Commission*, he not having thereby the command of the *Shippes* or *Officers*, he could neither restrain their *Revolt*, nor preserve himself from being expulst at the *Seamans pleasure* out of that *employment*.

Then upon his return the *ruling Officer* finding him as inflexible to their ends as formerly, they put him upon that dangerous and unhappy *Service* before *Pomfr.* (notwithstanding a *Commander* had been appointed thereunto by the *Committee of warre*) whether he went with much *Reluctancy* and *discontent*, as wondering

dering at the Cause of his, being Design'd thither, and expressing as much to his Friend, his sad soul p. elaying the misfortune, which after besell him. But that which gives greatest cause of grief and suspence to his friend, is, that his Brother, receives no furtherance, but rather, all discouragement that may be in searching after, and prosecuting the cauers of that so bloody and inhuman a Butchery.

In the North, though during the Service and Necessities of the Army, the Levellers, as they are call'd, were countenanc'd, and taken into the Boome, who therupon (forgetting all former affronts and disrespect) did liberally hazard their lives, without suspicion of fraud and delusion; Yet the Necessities being over, and the enemies subdued, they renew their disgraces, and fall into a greater Odium, and come pr then ever.

First divers Soldiers for Petitioning in the beha'fe of Major Reynolds, that he might serve in the room of Major Huntington, were therefore rais'd, and it was thought to have their skulls cutt, and some of them struck for so Petitioning; Major John Cobit, who much in extremity hazard of his life, had regain'd Tinmouth Cattle, where his Superior Commander had through the dangers and Difficulties by Storm, refused, and a Member of Parliament taken from his duty, & sent against the self-denying Ordinance, made Governor, that of Major White, who in all the desperate services in the North, had perform'd the duty of Lieutenant Colonel, and Major both in the Generalls Regiment, yet because a constant man to his Promises and Principles, was refused the Lieutenant Colonelship, and a man of a more complying Spirit fetch'd from another Regiment to officiate therein.

And this was the usage not onely to these Gentlemen, but to all others whether Officers, or Soldiers in North or South (for their Counsells were one in both) that did retain a sense and resolution to prosecute those good things intimated in their former Engagements.

And as before, upon their first great Successes against the City, when now againe justly was expected they should have made use of so notable and unexpected Blessings to the benefit & advantage of the Common-wealth, (as their late repentances, promises, and Pretences gave men cause to hope) the event proved, they intended another use ther of, for (having now subdued all their enemies, they proceed with greater confidence to their former purposes, of making themselves absolute masters over the Common-wealth, wherein there yet appears one main obstacle, and that was an unanimous and universall Resolution in all Well-minded People (especially in that numerous PEOPLE that concurred in the PETITION

of the Eleventh of *September* to center in an *Agreement of the People*, which it not evaded, it would be impossible for them) to goe through with their Worke: hereupon againe they cry out for Union, and imploy their Agents to get meetings, and Treaties with those that were most forward for an *agreement*: & contracte with them to center in an *agreement*; and that the Matter of the Petition of the Eleventh of *September* (as was desired) should be the substance of that *Agreement*: There being no other way then by this yeelding in the way to amaze this busie watchfull Party, and to keepe them quiet, whilst they went on with other pieces of their worke.

For what else, hath all the time spent thereabouts produc'd, but a meer amusing blinding and deluding a l that cordially desired the same, it being (before they set out) to ob scur'd and perplexe in the fence thereof: to shew of what was intended, and to corrupte in many particulars, that those most loath'd it that most desired it; in the mean time, whilst they had fixt good mens eyes and thoughts upon that Worke, they secretly and swiftly prosecute their other Designes as principal in their purposes wherein questionlesse they had not had the assistance of good men: but that it was verily beleev'd in shew of driving on their owne *Designe*, they were really and cordially producing a perfect and compleat *Agreement of the People*, as large both in grounds of *freedom*, and redresse of grievances, as the *Petition of the Eleventh of September*, in the uttermost extent thereof did import.

Many of which Petitioners were not satisfied, but that such an *Agreement of the People* might then have been obtained without any of those extraordinary sudden and violent Courtes lately taken, neither in bringing the *Army* to the City, breaking the House in pieces, or removing the *King* by such an extra-judiciall Proceedings and Court of Justice as had no place in the *English* Government, and did really foresee, there would be nothing but abuse in their pretence of an *Agreement of the People*: and that their owne domination, in and by a Counsell of *States* was the maine thing aimed at, and intended.

The Removing the *King*, the taking away the House of Lords, the overawing the House, and reducing it to that passe, that was become but the Channell, through which is conveyed all the Decrees and Determinations of a private Counsell of some few Officers,

ficers; the erecting of their *Council of Justice*; and their *Council of State*; The Voting of the People, the *Supreme Power*; and this Houe the *supreme Authors*; all these Particulars, (though many of them in order to good ends; have been desired by Well affected People) are yet become, (as they have managed them) of sole inducement to their ends; and Intents, either by removing such as stood in the way between them and the *lower* wealth, or command of the *Common Wealth*; or by actually possessing and investing them in the same.

And though all this was foreseen by us, yet so perswasive were their insinuations; in the ears of many good & well disposed People; both *Seniors* and others, that they have been really carried away with be liefe of them; and reliance upon them, and have thought they could not better imploy their time and abilities, then in affording them all furtherance, and assistance that might be.

So that their only Fears remaine upon our Discoveries, to prevent which they use meanes, that either we might not have opportunity to lay open their Treacheries, and Hypocrisies, or not be beleaved if we did it.

In order to the first, They strictly stop the Presse; In order to the second; They blast us with all the Scandalls, and false Reports their Wit or Malice could invent against us; and so monstrously wicked have they been in this particular, that they have pry'd into all our Actions, made use of all our acquaintances, and friendly intimacies, and in conclusion, have onely produced such scandalls, as have been customarily used by former Statesmen, and such when they are examined, containe both contrariety in themselves, and have not the least ground of Truth, as concerning us.

By these Arts are they new fastened in their *Power*, till either by opposition from the enemy, which they may well expect God will raise against them, as the deserved Recompence of their vile *Ap. stacy*; or by the weight and Violence of their many Injustices (which in the wicked court they are in) must every day be multiplied, till they be throwne downe from their usurped greatness.

They have already lost the Affections of all People, and are onely supported by their present strength; but when our those good men that hold them up, shall percieve how instrumental they

they are made, contrary to their intentions, in advancing a few  
 Jolly and imperious mans *designes*; and how easy it is for them to  
 convert their *abilities & power* to better, and more *common ends* ex-  
 ploit in their former engagements; and with the *complaints of the*  
*aggrieved people*, and their *owne understandings* can turne them  
 withall; they will then lament that they have so long been out of  
 the way, and set themselves with the utmost courage & resolution  
 to free their distressed *Country* from the *stains and captivity* it now  
 groans under. They may take of *freedom*; but what *freedom* indeed  
 is there, so long as they stop the *Press*; which is indeed and hath  
 been so accounted in all *free Nations*; the most villain all part here-  
 of; employing an *Apostate Justice* for executioner therein who hath  
 been twice burnt in the hand, a wretched fellow, that even the  
*Bishops and Star-chamber* would have sham'd to own. What *free-*  
*dom* is there left, when honest & *worthy Soldiers* are sentenced and  
 enforced to *ride the horse* with their faces reversed, and *brand swords*  
*bro't over their heads* for but Petitioning an, and presenting a *Letter*  
 in justification of their *Liberty* therein: is this be not a new way of  
 breaking the spirits of the *English*, which *Strafford and Canterbury*  
 never dreamt of; we know no difference of *tings*. A taste also  
 of *Liberty of Conscience* they have given us in the *Case* of a worthy  
*Member* of your House; so as we may well judge what is like to  
 follow, if their *Reigne* continue. And as for *Peace*; whilst the *su-*  
*preame Officers of the Army* are *supream* in your *House*; in the *Council*  
 of *State*; and all in all in the *generall Council of the Army*; when the  
*martiall power* is indeed *supream* to the *Civill Authority*; what *Peace*  
 can be expected; we professe we see no *counsell* tending to it, but  
 hereof mighty and vast *sums of monny* to be taxed upon the *Peo-*  
*ple per menem*, as if *warre* were become the only *trade*. or as if the  
*people* were bound to *maintain Armies* whether they have *trade* or  
 no: yea, whether they have *bread* or no.

And as for the *prosperity of the Nation*; what one thing hath been  
 done that teneth to it? Nay, hath any thing been done since they  
 were in *power*; but what increaseth the *rancor*, hatred, and ma-  
 lice, which our late *unhappy differences* have begotten amongst us,  
 as if they had placed their happiness and security in the *total divi-*  
*sion of the People* nothing being offered by them, that hath any face  
 of *reconciliation* in it, nothing of *cheerfulness* or *generall satisfacti-*  
*on*, the mother of *trade & plenty*, that might take away the *private*  
*remembrances and distinctions of parties* nothing indeed, but what  
 tendeth to *impacable bitterness of spirit*, the mother of *confusion*

Nay what sense of the heavy burdens of the people have they manifested of late, hath it not been by their procurement that the Judges their creatures have a thousand a year allow'd to every one of them above the ordinary fees? which were ever esteem'd a heavy oppression in themselves: is there any abridgement of the charge, or length of time in trial of causes? are they touch'd with the generall burthen of Taxes, that canker of industry and tilage? or with that of Exchequer, which out of the homely of labourers and poor people enriches the Lawyers, and other Caterpillars of the Common wealth: or what have they done to free Trade from the intolerable burthen of Customs? except the setting fresh hungry flies upon the old ones of the People? What one material thing did they offer unto you in their late Petition, which you gave them so many thanks for: terming their desires modest and desirous; when it's evident by the contents, they did it only to stop the mouths of their Spaulchers & to amuse them into a pleasing dream, whilst they go on with their designe of absolute domination: & which should you in the least oppose, you would finde their modesty no more towards you, then towards your excluded members: In the mean time, where is their Charge against those Members? or why finde they not who are against them have conferred offices upon each other, and upon their Creatures and relations? or what were that gave so large quantities of thousands and hundreds per annum whilst the Publick Faith is broken, and families are ready to starve for emptying themselves to serve the publick necessities; or why discharge a sentence not they at those who have betrayed the trust of Peoples for Fish, and I elinquents lands? and are become purchasers themselves of great Estates for very few years purchase: the due value rightly considered: or why blame they not the Lord chief Justice and Lord chief Baron for keeping their places, which were conferred on them (and the like on others) by this House, when those Members sat there, they have excused: or why finde they not out those perfidious persons that have made no conscience of breaking the self-denying Ordinance, and persist therein: or is the reason why they have nothing to say against these sorts of men, namely because they are their own, and their Creatures cast? Observe to what England, that seeth, and yet suffereth such incalorable miseries: What can be expected from such Officers, who frequently manifest a thirst after the blood of such People, and Soldiers, as are most active for the common Freedom, peace & prosperity of the Common wealth, and against whom they have nothing else to object: or what can be expected from such a Counsel in the Army, as shall agree that the supreme authority should be moved to make a law, that that Counsel of Officers may



have Power to have and put to death all such persons though not of the Army, as they should judge, were disturbers of the Army. Certainly these things cannot but manifest unto you their very hearts, their inward purposes and Intentions, representing visibly before you and all the World, the most dangerous condition, that ever yet this Nation hath been in: And if there be any Conscience towards God or man to be found amongst you, the whole sinews and progresse of this our sad Representation, is so fully knowne, and fresh in memory, that it is impossible, but it must worke upon all amongst you that are not Co-partners with them in their *Designes*, or are not engaged (as the Lawyers are) in some corrupt Interest.

But though this long betrayed and miserable Nation should prove so unhappy, as that there should not be one found amongst you, to owne these known *Truths*, which yet ring in every mans eares, throughout the Land; but through feare, or other vile respects, should shut your eyes against the light: it shall be so farre from inducing us: to repent of what we have herein (or in our late Apprehensions) expressed, and set before you that we shall rejoyce above measure, that we have witnessed to the *Truth*; and against all those Delusions and perfidious Stratagems, lay'd by those men to betray and enslave the Common wealth, to their own Pride, Ambition, Lusts, Covetousness, and Domination, if not Dukedship, or Kingship; their Creatures discoursing of late, That the *Power* must be reduced to one: what their meaning is; time (if they be not hindred) will manifest: but the Premises duly weighed, doth evidence, what ere it be, it will be as bad, as bad possibly can be.

And as we shall not altogether doubt of the appearance of some, in this Honorable House, that will conscientiously performe that *Supreme Trust* which is really and essentially resident in your integrity; what ever may be suggested to the contrary: (it being not other, treachery, nor anyes violence, that can divest you of that Authority:) but if you all should say therein, as God forbid, yet we shall not doubt, but that what we have here presented, and published will open the eyes, and raise the hearts of so considerable a number of the *Souldiary* and *People* in all places, and make them so sensible of the bondage and danger threatned, as that these men, this Faction of Officers, shall never be able to goe through with their wicked intentions.

It being an infinite shame that they should be suffered to proceed so farre therein, as they have done, there having bene no party hitherto so inexcusable for it is possible, if not probable that the King and his party might at first be induced to offend through error of breeding, long custome, and sway of times, (although that excuse neither him nor them) That *Holl's*, and that party, might at first be drawne into their violence, against people faithfull to the Common wealth through an erroneous zeale against supposed Sectaries, and for uniformity in Presbytery (though that also but little extenuates their offence) but neither the one nor the other can be imagined to have transgressed against so evident light, nor against so many and great obligations of love, and great respects from the people as this party hath done; So that the intentions, and endeavours of these men, to enslave the Common-wealth, or their continuing of burthens, without any remorse at the dearness of food, and utter losse of trade, exceeds in the nature and measure of it, all the wickednesse of both the other parties put together.

And therefore upon due consideration of the premises and in utter detestation of their most perfidious and treacherous dealing with the Army, Parliament and Common-wealth; we do in behalf of our selves and all well-minded people, here before this Honourable House, as in the presence of Almighty God, protest against their breaking the faith of the Army with all parties, their dissolving the Council of the *Agitators*, and usurping a power of giving forth the sence of the Army to the Parliament and people, also against the shooting of the Souldier to death at *Ware*, and their cruelties exercised on other persons, to the debasing of their spirits, and thereby new moulding of the Army to their owne designs, then playing fast and loose with the King and his party, till they brought a new and dangerous Warre upon the Nation.

We also protest against their dissembled repentances, as in no measure satisfactory for so abominable offences: we also protest against all their late extraordinary Proceedings, in bringing the Army upon the City, (to the ruine of trade) there breaking the House in pieces without charging the Members particularly: And then judging and taking away of mens lives in an extraordinary way, as done for no other end, but to make way for their owne absolute domination: we also protest against the Election and Establishment of those High-Courts of

Justice, as unjust in themselves, and of dangerous Precedence in time to come: as likewise against the Councell of State and putting some of themselves therein contrary to their owne Agreement: we also protest against all other the like meetings of those officers, that on *Thursday* the 12. of *February* last, voted for so bloody a Law, as to hang whom they should judge, disturbed the Army, (as having no power either by such Councils, either to give the sence of the Army, or to judge any Person not of the Army, or to do any thing in reference to the Common-wealth, more then what any, so many fifty Souldiers or persons not of the Army have power and may lawfully do: though all the Generall officers were continually present.) these we protest against, as things unjust abominable and dangerous and declare that our present not seeking for Justice or reliefe therein, shall be no bar against us for the future, when we shall see cause to seek for Justice and reliefe therein.

And for the truth of our Judgements herein: we should with gladnesse submit unto the determinations of this Honourable House, were not their High hand as yet held over you. And therefore we are enforced to appeale to a new Representative equally chosen in such like manner, as is exprest in our serious apprehensions lately presented unto you, and do likewise desire that you would encourage the Army in chusing a Representative, consisting of select Persons, chosen by every Regiment of the Army, as at the first at *New-market*: and shall humbly pray that you will not any more receive the result of a few officers, as the sence of the Army: the officers of an Army having no more power to make Laws for an Army, then the officers of the Common wealth to make Laws for the People; both of them being constituted only for the Discipline, and Government thereof. We hope you will proceed to further an Agreement of the People; according to our late desires in our serious Apprehensions, and also speedily take in hand and effect those other things therein desired, tending very much to the abrogation of the bondage intended.

Thus have we once more unburdened our hearts before you, and faithfully discharged our duties to our Country, giving timely warning of the most dangerous thraldom and misery, that ever threatened this much wasted Nation, and much we doubt not, will by wisdom mixt with some honest resolutions, be timely prevented: which we fitly exceedingly rejoyce to see, that so after so many yeeres of sorrow, the people may at length be comforted, and the Land enjoy her right; and that all the world may be enforced to confesse, That *There is a reward for the righteous, or, that there is a God that judgeth the earth.*