Anonymous. *An Account of Some Late Designs to Create a Misunderstanding betwixt the King and his People; and to Subvert the English Constitution, by Exalting the Prerogative, and Rendering Parliaments Useless.* London, 1702. 3-27.

We have many Instances in History, how the Kings of *England* have endeavour’d to enslave their People; but no Reign, except the present, affords an Instance, that the People endeavour’d to enslave themselves, and combin’d to the subversion of their own Rights and Privileges. For certainly such Men as spirit a People against their own Representatives, can mean nothing but the Destruction of our Constitution; and this was the most horrid Plot that was ever yet hatch’d, to engage Men to make an actual Surrender of their Liberties, which no King yet could obtain by Force. We never yet wanted in *England* a Party to promote Arbitrary Designs, and the *French* Methods having fail’d them in preceding Reigns, they now try what they can make of the Examples of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, and do endeavour to have the People believe, they lie under a fatal Necessity of parting with their Parliamentary Rights to preserve their Country.

We cannot consider, without the greatest amazement, how far this wicked Design work’d it self into the Fancy of the common People the last Sessions, whose Forefathers struggl’d so hard to leave them in possession of their Rights; and we our selves have but lately been at the Expence of a Revolution to keep them : And who could imagine that Men who pretended such a forwardness in the Revolution, should in a few Years after make a Party to give away those Rights for which our Forefathers and our selves have suffered so much to maintain? Certainly a disinterested By-stander, to see a Cause of this Nature advanc’d by a free People, must conclude them to be under the judgment of a popular Frenzy; for Men in their right Senses would never petition for Chains and Fetters, and labour to enslave themselves. One would pity Men in Distraction to see them cut and wound themselves; but when they *Run a Muck*, and kill other People, they ought to be laid under Restraint; and therefore the Temper and Patience of the last Parliament was very considerable, in not punishing to the utmost degree those Impudent Invaders of the Rights of the most August and Powerful Senate in the Universe.

To make Parliaments useless has been the Design and Plot of a Party of Men among us ever since the Revolution; nor have they fail’d of embracing every Advantage which happn’d for that purpose. Indeed their Attempt in getting a Standing Army proving Abortive, their Designs were somewhat retarded; but the last Sessions they again appear’d under other Colours, they had engag’d a Scoundrel Party to hang out their Flag of Defiance against their own Representatives, and seditious Clamours and Noises against the Parliament were spread throughout the whole Kingdom. These Clamours and Noises were but as so many Trumpets of Rebellion to gather the Zealous Mob together, and to know how many could distinguish the Sound : The Heads of the Party thinking themselves secure of Numbers, begin to marshal their Men, not into Regiments but *Legions*; these are again divided into small Detachments, some of which are to libel the Parliament, others are to rendezvous at Coffee-houses, and there rail, and lye, and vilify and asperse such leading Members in the House as are most in the Interest of their Country. Every one of these Divisions had an Orderly Man appointed, whose business every day was, to come to their main Guard at the R--r, and there give an Account how the People listed, and to receive Orders : So that
the Cause now began to move pretty well within the Lines of Communication. And to spirit the People in the Country against the Parliament, was the Post of the chief Traders, so that not a Bill of Parcels went into the Country without a parcel of Faction against the Parliament. There never yet was a Plot without a Priest in the Conspiracy: some of the Dissenting Preachers were easily engaged in this Design, they animated their People in the Cause, who believe with an implicit Faith. At that time I heard one of their Preachers tell a great many Lies to God Almighty in his Prayers against the Parliament; He complain’d that the Parliament retarded the King’s Business, that they fought not [for] the Good of the Nation, &c. So that this Parliament, which did the best Service to their Country that could be, had railing Accusations brought against them both before God and the People.

Things being now ripe for Action, ’twas thought fit to let the Parliament know what the Resentment of the Nation was (for these People had the Impudence to call themselves the whole Nation) and this was done by a Petition from the Quarter-Sessions for the County of Kent: But this Petition was worded after so insolent and sawcy a manner, that it was not fit to be delivered to a Petty Jury in an Inferior Court. The Parliament in vindication of their own Rights, committed the Persons, for their Insolence, that delivered the Petition, to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending their House. This gave new Life to their Cause. The Parties committed were daily visited by the Faction. Now all the Clamour and Noise about Town and Country, was the Injustice they had done the Petitioners by committing them, whom the Faction in a Libel sent to the Speaker, and subscribed Legion, call’d their Masters. Now all the Factious Tribe are quite run mad, here’s Slavery under a Parliament which is intolerable; and they were so angry at the very Idols that their own Hands had set up, that they were for pulling our Constitution to the Ground, and razing the very Name of a House of Commons out of our Laws and Histories; nay, I have heard ’em say, that they hop’d this would be the last Parliament should be seen in England, and that it would never be well for the Nation till the King had the Power to act at his own Discretion, without being embarras’d with so troublesome a Body as that of the House of Commons: And all the Libels they wrote at that time, and since the rising of that Parliament, have tended to no other purpose; for they did not so much strike at any particular Members of that House, or any singular Grievance they had occasioned, as at the very Essence and Being of Parliaments.

The Kentish Petitioners being thus favoured with the good Opinion of the Gaderene Mob, and finding that the Parliament was notoriously libell’d upon their Account, they thought, having insulted the Masters, they might affront their Servant; and hereupon they behaved themselves after so insolent a manner to the Serjeant at Arms, whose Prisoners they were, that the Serjeant was forc’d to complain to the House. Which Carriage of theirs the House so far resented, as to commit them to safer Custody in the Gatehouse. This gave a new occasion of railing, and prov’d as Oil to the Wheels of their Plot; they mov’d with all the Fury in the World, except open Force; and had their Courage been proportionable to their Malice, it must have necessarily concluded in an open Rupture.

For no sooner arose the Difference betwixt the House of Lords and the House of Commons, about the Impeachments of the Lords Partitioners; but the Legionites struck in with the former, tho they were a Body of another Nature, and only represented themselves in Parliament. But these Men laid hold on all Advantages they
thought might assist them in blasting the Reputation of the Commons, in order to render them useless in the Opinions of the unthinking Mob.

Under these Inconveniences did this good Parliament labour; being at one time affronted by those who ought to venture Life and Limb in their Vindication, and to justify their own Rights of Impeachment: yet with more than a Roman Bravery they rode out all the Storms of Inveterate Malice, and like true English Men, as indeed they were, they defended their own and their Peoples Rights to the last Day of their sitting.

Before I proceed to give a further Account of the Steps the Legionites took to ruin this Parliament, I must crave leave to say something in Vindication of that truly Honourable and August Assembly, who as they are now the just Object of the Love of all good Men living, so will their Names be sacred to Posterity, and the Children yet unborn will pay a venerable Respect to their Memories. And for what Reasons soever they were at last dissolved, yet this present Parliament, in their first Address to his Majesty, gave that Parliament a just and honourable Character, and do never mention them but with a profound Respect.

The Ground of the Legionites’ Quarrel against that Parliament, was their not proclaiming of War against France: Tho every body knows ’tis none of the Parliament’s Business to proclaim War. And how could they advise the King, as they were the Grand Council of the Nation, in an Affair of that Nature, when they knew not what Treaties his Majesty had entered into, nor upon what Foot England stood with the rest of the Allies? What, said the Legionites, will the Parliament suffer the French King to run away with the Kingdom of Spain? They are in a French Interest, and have taken French Money? The Treaty of Partition was the Occasion of the French King’s getting the Kingdom of Spain, and could these Men imagine that the Parliament, which was not consulted in the making of that Treaty, tho they were actually sitting whilst that Treaty was under the Consideration of the Managers, would advise a War which could be no other than the Result of that Treaty? What could Men within the Bounds of Reason expect more from that Parliament than they perform’d? Was it not a Wise precaution to enable his Majesty to enter into Alliances, and to know the Strength of the Confederacy before they engaged in a War? Tho the Devil be in the Legionites, could they or their old Father in ’em, tell what England’s Quota was to be in the War, before his Majesty had consulted his Allies, and laid the State of the War before his Parliament? Or would they have had us engage in a War upon our own Account, and then trust to the good Nature of the Allies whether they would help us or not? The Dutch indeed sent a lamentable Letter to his Majesty, which his Majesty laid before the Parliament; and the Parliament upon Honour, without any Obligation, sent them 10,000 Men. The Dutch we find cry’d out before they were hurt; however, like good Neighbours, we came to their Assistance: And what could the Legionites expect more of that Parliament? Would they have had ’em declare War for the Dutch? Were they not capable of doing it themselves? If their House was beset with Thieves, whose business was it to oppose the Burglars? Certainly theirs who own’d the Goods and Chattels, the Plate and Jewels.

The Parliament’s not declaring War was the chief Cause of the Kentish Petition: The Posterity of Jack Cade and Wat Tyler were extreme angry at the Business, but much more that the Parliament would neither take their Advice, nor heed their Threats, but committed them for being Sawcy. But that the Parliament
infring’d the Right of Petitioning, because they deny’d the Legionites the Right of Libelling, is the vainest Suggestion in the World: For what was that Petition but a Libel and Satyr, a Lampoon and Ridicule upon the greatest Authority, in England? Parliaments are not to consult their Electors in the great Affairs of the Publick, for their Electors are incapable of giving their Advice in such Matters. In things relating to their particular Boroughs, the Electors may advise their Representatives, for of these Affairs they may be well appr[ised]: But what could a Freeholder know of the State of Europe, so as to advise a Parliament, when he had been following the Plough-Tail ever since the Peace? That Grand Jury ought to be Chronicl’d, that could see farther into State Affairs than the King and both Houses, and thought themselves injured because their Advice was not taken.

And if the Parliament has not a Power of committing Criminals, they had as good shut up Shop; for I can assure them if they are so weak as that comes to, they will not long be a Parliament. If they are capable of judging what Laws are fit to punish Criminals, I hope they are capable of knowing when a Person has broken such Laws; and it has been immemorially their Right to punish such Persons, tho the Legionites represent this Act as an Innovation, and an Intrenchment on the Liberty of the People. I think that Parliament which punished Trefilian, had a notable Power when they caus’d him to be executed at Tyburn within six or seven Hours after they met; and one part of his Treason was, advising the Dissolution of a Parliament, contrary to the Interest of the Realm, which is much the same with insulting a Parliament by an insolent Petition.

I hope these Men would not tie Parliaments to stated Forms in their Proceedings, as in the Courts of Justice: That Power which obliges others to act by Rules of its own making, may certainly act by what Methods seems best consistent with its own Wisdom. Legislative Powers are governed in their Proceedings by Custom and Precedents; and when they want either, they can make both. It is on all hands acknowledged, that the Custom of England is the Law of England; and as sure a Maxim is it, that the Custom and Usage of Parliament is the Law of Parliament. Now to convince our Legionites that it has been the Custom and Usage of Parliaments to commit Persons for being sawcy, and medling with Matters under the Consideration of Parliament, I shall present them with two Instances in their own dear Salary Parliaments.

Mr John Salisbury who printed the Flying Post, was so peremptory as to affirm, That the Chequer Bills would pass at a small Discount. The Business of the Chequer Bills being then before the House, the House esteem’d it an insolent Intermeddling with their Business, and for the same he was taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, where he a long time continued a Prisoner to his great Charge. Now what he wrote was Matter of Truth, for the Chequer Bills did pass at a much greater Discount than he mentioned in his Paper; but not one word of what the Kentish Men said in their Petition has prov’d true.

My next Instance is the Case of Mr John Rye a Merchant of London, who held a Brewhouse in Goodmans Fields in the Name of another person. The Commissioners of Excise had very barbarously treated Mr Rye upon the account of the said Brewhouse; insomuch that he was forc’d to petition the House of Commons as his last Resort for Justice. In his Petition and Case he mentioned one of the Commissioners of
Excise by Name, who was a Member of the House of Commons, and had done him the greatest Injustice. This the House judg’d to be a Breach of Privilege, and for the same he was committed to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms; and his Petition was never considered, nor his Grievance ever redress’d: Before he was set at Liberty it cost him near £100 besides his Loss of Time and Neglect of Business which he bore at his own Charge, without a Collection by a Factious Club at Mercers-Chappel. Now if a Legionite Parliament had Power to commit a Gentleman barely for mentioning the Name of a Mercenary Member, without hearing the Matter of Fact, I hope an English Parliament has Power to commit persons that insult them in the midst of their Debates for the common good of the Realm. But these Legionites are the strangest Creatures in the Universe, what is the highest Justice in themselves is the greatest Injustice in others; and so vain and peremptory are they, that nothing can be well done that is not of their own acting; and such Conjurers do they pretend to be, that if their foolish Humour don’t take place, Ruit Calum, the World is just at an end, and our Island is ready to be drown’d in the Ocean.

To pass over many other things that might be said in Vindication of a Parliament, which was as able to vindicate it self as any I have yet known, I shall proceed to consider the Continuation of the Legionite Plot.

As soon as the Parliament was prorogued, and the Kentish Men set at Liberty, the Legionites assembled the Heads of their Tribes, where it was carried, nemen contradicente, that the five Kentish Prisoners should have the Thanks of all the Factious Houses in England: And then it was resolv’d that Money be collected to make a noble Treat for the said worthy Members, in honour of their gallant and generous Enter prizes, and in derision of that Parliament who had so unjustly confin’d ’em; and accordingly some of the Sheriff-makers of London were ordered to collect the said Money, which I am told they did to the value of £200 tho some they importun’d to join with them had more Wit than to do it. And to compleat the Show, that it might look somewhat Majestick, the Ballad-maker of Whitehal was ordered to compose some Lines to the Laud and Praise of the five Kentish Worthies; which he did with like success, as when he and the Parson rebell’d against King David, and broke his Lute, and murder’d his Psalms.

Things being thus ordered, the Guinea-droppers for the Feast meet at Mercers-Chappel, where all things are ready. Bak’d, Boil’d and Roast, and Cod and Calves-head in abundance. But when the five Worthies entered, Lord, what a stir there was! Jove when he appears in an Assembly of the Gods, cannot have more Homage paid him: The Cits were grown mere Courtiers, and none could have thought their Hams had been so supple. Next the Worthies was placed their Secretary of State, the Author of the Legion Letter; and one might read the Downfal of Parliaments in his very Countenance. Besides those admitted to the Feast, Fame had brought a numerous Croud to be Spectators; the Journeymen and Apprentices ran for one whole Day from their Masters; this was e’en as bad as a Lord-Mayor’s Show; hither came the good Man and good Woman, who brought her Child along with her, and went home very well satisfy’d, and thank’d God that her Child had seen a Kentish Worthy.

But after the Teeth had done their Duty, the Tongues went to work, and nothing was spoken but in praise of the Heroes, and condemnation of the Parliament; the most Dissenting squeamish Stomach present could drink off its Glass to the
Health of Cinque-Quatre, ie. to the five Kentish Worthies, and the four Impeached Lords: It was resolved, Nemine contradicente, that the Parliament should be dissolv’d, and that the five Worthies should be chosen in the next Parliament, two of them for the County, and the others for the most considerable Corporations in Kent.

Never any Accident happen’d more opportune in favour of a certain Party, than the Death of the late K. James; and as if they and the French King had made private Articles at the Treaty of Partition, his declaring the pretended Prince of Wales at that Juncture, did their Plot a wonderful piece of Service. For tho the Succession was already settled in the Protestant Line, which Act effectually extinguish’d the Hopes of the Young Pretender to the Imperial Crowns of these Kingdoms: Yet this Presumption of the French King’s gave the Legionites occasion to fill the Nation with Jealousies and Fears; and these Fears were the more heightened, by insinuating into the Populace the Nation’s imminent Danger by a Parliament they said was not in the King’s Interest, and which did not the Sessions before mind the King’s Business; tho indeed the Constitution of an English Parliament was not intended for that end and purpose, they are constituted, appointed and chosen to mind the Peoples Business, they are the Guardians of the Peoples Liberties, and in Parliament are obliged to pursue the best Methods for the security of the Realm, which things no Parliament ever yet prosecuted with greater Wisdom, more Fidelity and Courage than this Parliament we are speaking of, and I think they were in duty bound to neglect all Business of a contrary Nature to it.

This was the happy Minute which they imbrac’d to shew a publick Resentment of the Nation’s disaffection to this Parliament. The old trade of Addressing is begun, against the pretended Prince of Wales one word, and two against the Parliament. But never any wise King yet rely’d upon popular Addressing, they being incapable by Addresses to judge the true Sense of a Nation, for never yet one eighth part of the People sign’d such Addresses, which are generally promoted by Men designing and ambitious, forward and willing to make a Noise in the World, and some profitable Bargain with the Prince they address. And it has been often observ’d that Addresses have spoken the wrong Sense of the Matter; Richard Cromwell found this a Truth by woful Experience, as did also King James, when these very Legionites address’d him and his Welsh Cub, and in a few months after sent both of ’em packing. I think Lauderdale was much in the right on’t, when he told K. Charles II that Addresses were fit for nothing but to wipe his Royal A----.

However, according to the desire of their Hearts this good Parliament is dissolv’d; which tho it was a great surprize to many who lov’d their Country, and the Liberties of England, yet the Legionites seem’d no more elevated at the news, than at the other happy Accidents had befallen them in their Attempts against our Constitution; so that their evenness of Temper plainly demonstrated it was no new thing to them, and the provision they made against the good Time, plainly shew’d their knowledge when it would be.

There is but one thing now remaining to get their Plot effectually executed, which is to chuse a new Parliament for the Turn, as they term it. To effect which, besides their old Methods of Lying, Railing, Bribing, &c. they have recourse to Libelling and Stigmatizing such Members of the late House as stood most in the way of their Arbitrary Designs: Hereupon a Black List is printed of the Names of such
Members as they would have left out at the next Election; and this List was very carefully by the Party dispers’d throughout the whole Nation. Certainly a greater piece of Villany was never perpetrated in these parts of the World; for in this List were inserted the Names of the most eminent Patriots of their Country, such as had been in all Reigns in no Interest but that of the Peoples. Which List (tho the Design of it were villainous) would I have enrol’d in the Records of this Kingdom, to the immortal Honour of those truly venerable Names, to the encouragement of their Posterity to like virtuous Actions, and to let future Ages see what a large Roll of Worthies we had in the House of Commons, who preserved our Rights when our Liberties were in the greatest danger, and most likely to be lost.

Their pitching upon such Men to expose ’em as Enemys to the King and the present Government, was the clearest Indication of what they intended; for they struck at such Men as never turned their Back in the House upon a good Vote, and such as were never mercenary nor brib’d into a Court Interest, either by Place or Pension; at such they struck, as by their large Patrimonies and great Shares of the Land of this Island could not in any wise be suspected to be in a French Interest, and at such as no good King can have the least reason to mistrust, and whom every good King will honour and esteem. Could there be any thing in the World more invidious, more villainous and malicious, than to accuse the Honourable Speaker of that House of Disaffection to his Majesty, or being in a French Interest, of taking French Money, &c. who is descended from a Generous Stock, that has born our Country the best Fruit; and who, besides his own personal Merit, Worth, and Fidelity, which might justly secure him from the Reproaches of malicious Tongues, has so large a Stake in the Hedg, as to put him out of the Danger of the Temptation of French Gold? To any one acquainted with the Proceedings of the late Reigns, it must seem a strange Turn now to have the worthy Families of the Harleys and Folies stigmatized as Enemies to their Country, and as being in a French Interest, especially to be thus represented by the Dissenting Preachers, who in a great measure owe their Liberties to them, and others nam’d in their Black List; and had they not a few days ago join’d their Interest to throw out a Clause, the Nonconforming Preachers would have been obliged to swear to support a Church from which they dissent. I am sure these Preachers deserv’d no such Kindness at their Hands; and had they either Grace, Honour, or Honesty, they would blush to see their Calumnies rewarded with good Services, by Gentlemen whose Reputations they had so long attempted to murder.

What could more affect our Liberties, and endanger the Constitution of our Parliaments, than to create a Mistrust in the Common People, that their Representatives were going to sell their Country to the French? and impudently to affirm that they had taken Mony of Count Tallard the French Ambassador, as Premiums for that purpose; and all this done under the dark Disguises of Libels, when the Authors have not as yet had the honesty to attempt the Proof of it against any one particular Member? God forbid but those guilty of such Crimes should be brought to punishment. But ’tis intolerable to have Patriots aspers’d by Villains to the Ruin of our Constitution : Calumnies of the like nature procured the Fate of the Great De Wits in Holland, who were the best Patriots ever that Country knew; and like theirs would have been the Fate of these English Patriots, had the Legionites’ Strength been answerable to their Malice.

But how false soever these Aspersions are in them selves, the Party thought it
necessary for the finishing their Plot, to send them into the Countries when the Writs were issued from the Crown-Office for the Electing a New Parliament. Very diligent were they in Lying, Bribing, and Calumniating; they were only mortify’d at the unhappy Accident in Kent, in not getting one of their Five Worthies elected, when they had so fairly promis’d the People to have them all Members. This was a fair Discovery of one of their Lies, when they told the People those Worthies were the greatest Men, and had the best Interest in the County. But to salve this Sore, and make good this Failure, Tom Double comes out of Gloucestershire with News, that Mr How had lost his Election; and having heard that Mr Hammond and Dr D’Avenant were quite routed, they concluded they had gain’d their Point, that they had got a Parliament for their Turn: And seeing by Lies they had routed, as they said, one Parliament, they took upon them to provide Rules for the other to walk by. I shall take no notice of the Hornbooks they gave some of the Members; for my part I should not care to be a Member upon such Terms: I shall observe their finishing Stroke upon the Parliament.

The Commons in the last Parliament had impeach’d Four of their Friends, and had committed others, they were now resolved to be even with ‘em, and as many of the Commons were doom’d that way; the Persons they aim’d at had never been imploy’d in publik Offices, and therefore could not be impeach’d of Imbezel ing the Nation’s Mony; they had never been of the King’s Council, and therefore could not be impeach’d of Partition Treaties, and of advising Illegal Grants; but they had been in London when Count Tallard was at Court, and therefore might be impeach’d of taking French Mony. They did not care whether the Matter of Fact were true, provided the Persons were impeach’d; by this means they would have been committed to the Tower, and so kept from the Service of the House the whole Sessions. ’Twas no matter how scandalous the Evidence was, provided they obtain’d their Ends, otherwise they would never have engaged their Brother Fuller to accuse so many worthy Members of both Houses. This was their New Plot against our Parliament; for Fuller’s Accusation is the same with theirs, both in respect of Persons and Crimes: and it is notoriously true, that the Legionites have supported him in that Affair, and had he succeeded as they wish’d, we should have had another Treat at Mercers-Chappel, and have had as fine a Picture for Fuller as we had for the Kentish Worthies: But the Cause and the Patrons of it are alike infamous, and all good Men abominate both.

The Parliament being chosen, the chief Thing to be considered is, the Choice of a Speaker: The old Speaker was calumniated by the Party, and a thousand Lies were rais’d against him to keep him out of the Chair. We may, I hope, expect a more favourable Opportunity (when the People of this Nation shall have recovered their Senses) to give the World an account of the Methods us’d to keep this Honourable Person from being the Mouth of the House this Sessions: but certainly no Age can parallel the clandestine Practices made use of upon that account, which shews the earnest Endeavours of a Party amongst us to ruin our Constitution.

And tho the Legionites lost their Point in respect to a Speaker, yet their hopes of obtaining the End are not yet quite extinguished; for whoever frequents the Factious Coffee-Houses in the City, and observes the Talk of those Men, may find they rely more upon the Army to be raised as a Support to their Cause, than to the Confederacy. The Heads of this Faction, who are the Modern Whigs and many of the
Dissenters, are not in themselves formidable, as being of no Principles, and consequently of no Courage, and therefore have endeavoured to gain the brainless Mob on their side, who corrupted in Judgment, will venture without Fear or Wit. But of all the mischievous Creatures among us, the Impudence of the Foreigners is to be admired, who the last Session entred themselves under the Legionites; for whoever at that time us’d the Publick Houses in Spittle-fields and neighbouring Places, might have heard the French Vagabonds rail at the Parliament, with as much assurance as if like the Kentish Worthies they had been their Masters. At the time when the Difference was betwixt the two Houses, I heard some of these Foreigners at a Coffee-house near Devonshire-square say, That they had in England 100 thousand French would join with the King against the Parliament. By all which we may see what a miserable Condition the English Nation is in: Our Armies are engaged in the Quarrels of Foreigners abroad, whilst we have an Army of them at home in our very Bowels ready to destroy our Constitution.

We have a Court that speaks French, in the same Livery with that at St Germaines, mourning after the Herse of the late K. James. Foreigners are possess’d of Places of the greatest Profit and Trust in the Kingdom, and by lavish Grants are becoming Lords of the Soil, whilst our Parliaments can hardly maintain their Constitution against the Insults of Native and Foreign Enemies. Under these Circumstances, what, ye English Men, will become of your Antient Rights, your Free Customs and Liberties, which if once you lose, you will be the most miserable People upon Earth?

And after what has been said on this Subject, would it not become the Wisdom and Honour of a House of Commons to punish the Abettors of such a Plot, as meant the Destruction of their own and the Peoples Rights? This Plot was of a far more dangerous nature than that of the Gunpowder Treason; Guido Faux design’d the Destruction but of one House of Commons, but these Men design’d the utter Extirpation of all such lawful Assemblies, and consequently of our Civil Rights. But ’tis hop’d that the Wisdom and Courage, the Unanimity and Zeal of this House of Commons in providing, not only for our own Safety, but likewise for that of all Europe, and in maintaining their own Rights, as they represent the bravest People in the World, will abundantly confute the groundless Calumnies of an ill-designing Party.