The whole army, both horse and foot, was drawn together near Edinburgh, and
continu’d so all the session of Parliament: nay the Commissioner (as if he had been
led to the gallows) made his parade every day after this, from the Parliament House to
the Cross, (where his coaches waited for him, no coaches, nor no persons that were
not members of Parliament being suffer’d to enter the Parliament Close towards the
evening of such days as the Parliament was sitting) thro’ two lanes of musqueteers,
and went from thence to the Abbey, the Horse-guards surrounding his coach, and if it
was dark, for the greater security, a part of the Foot-guards likewise. This mob was
attended with bad consequences to the Country party; for falling out before the nation
was equally inform’d of the state of affairs, and equally inflam’d with resentment, it
was the easier dissipat’d, and discourag’d others from making any attempts for the
future, and gave occasion to the ministry of England not to be alarmed, for it consisted of a parcel of rascally boys, no others being
concern’d in it, tho’ the chief of the Country party had encourag’d and hir’d them out;
besides the placing of these guards overaw’d many, both in and out of the House.

Tho’ it was plain to all unbyass’d people that this mob had its rise very
accidentally, yet the Government was not fond of any such amusements, and therefore
the next day after it happen’d, the Privy Council met and ordained these guards to be
continu’d, and emitted a proclamation against tumultuous meetings, wherein they
commanded all persons to retire off the streets whenever the drum should beat and
give warning, order’d the guards to fire upon such as would not obey, and granted an
indemnity to such as should on that occasion kill any of the leidges; and next day the
Chancellor acquainted the Parliament with what had happen’d, and what the Council
had done on that occasion, and then the proclamation being read, a motion was made
that the Council should have the thanks of the House for providing for the safety of
the Parliament, and that it be recommended to them to continue their care therein. No
body pretended to justify, on the contrary every one condemn’d mobs; but it was
alledg’d, that since the mob was dispers’d, and no further fear of it, there was no need
of those guards being continued, especially in the Parliament Close, which seem’d an
overawing the Parliament, and was never practis’d in any kingdom save by Oliver
Cromwell, when he design’d to force the Parliament of England to his own ends; that
it was the town of Edinburgh’s privilege to maintain the peace within its own districts,
and that the inhabitants were willing to undertake it; and that the sole privilege of
commanding and placing guards about the Parliament House belongs to the Earl of
Errol as high constable, and to the Earl Marishal as marshal of Scotland. However, the
Courtiers being deadly afraid of their bones, gave no ear to decency, reason, or
justice, but press’d a vote, and the motion was approv’d, reserving nevertheless the
town of Edinburgh’s right to their privileges on other occasions: but before voting,
the Earl of Errol protested that the continuing of standing forces within the town of
Edinburgh, and keeping guards within the Parliament Close and other places within
the town in the time of Parliament (as is done at present) is contrary to the right of his
office as high constable, by which he had the only right of guarding the Parliament
without doors as the Earl Marishal had within doors, and was an incroachment on the
rights and privileges of Parliament, and on the particular rights and privileges of the
town of Edinburgh; and if any vote should pass contrary to his right, or the Earl
Marishal’s right, or the Parliament or town of Edinburgh’s rights and privileges, that
it should not in any time thereafter prejudice the same, or be any ways drawn in
consequence; and he desir’d this protestation might be inserted in the Minutes and recorded in the books of Parliament; to which protestation adher’d the Dukes of Hamilton and Athol, the Marquis of Annandale, the Earl Marishal, the Earls of Wigton, Strathmore, Selkirk and Kincardine, Viscounts of Stormont and Kilsyth, the Lords Semple, Oliphant, Balmerino, Blantyre, Bargeny, Belhaven, Colvill, Duffus and Kinnard; George Lockhart of Carnwath, Sir James Foulis of Colingtoun, Andrew Fletcher of Salton, John Brisbane of Bishopton, William Cochran of Kilmarnock, John Stuart of Kilquinlock, John Graham of Killearn, James Graham of Bucklivy, Robert Rollo of Powhouse, Sir Patrick Murray of Auchtertyre, John Murray of Strowan, Sir Thomas Burnet of Leys, Alexander Gordon of Pitlurg, James More of Stonywood, Patrick Lyon of Auchterhouse, David Graham of Fintree, James Ogilvy of Boyn, Alexander Mackie of Palgown, James Dunbar of Hemprigs, and George Mackenzie of Inchcoulter, Barons; Alexander Robertson, Alexander Edgar, Francis Molison, Robert Kelly, William Sutherland, Archibald Shields, John Lyon, John Carruthers, George Home, James Bethune, John Bain, and Robert Frazer, Burrows.

Notwithstanding this precaution of the Government, and that several boys were incarcerated, as being accessory to the late mob, and a Committee of Parliament appointed to make enquiry after such as had, or should be guilty of such tumultuous meetings, or of shewing any disrespect towards my Lord Commissioner, yet His Grace was constantly saluted with curses and imprecations, as he pass’d through the streets: and if the Parliament sat till towards evening, then to be sure he and his guards were well pelted with stones, some whereof even enter’d his coach and often wounded his guards and servants; so that often he and his retinue were oblig’d to go off at a top gallop and in great disorder.

If now we leave the town, and make a tour through the country, tho’ the badness of the season prevented their coming together and proceeding to acts of violence, yet there we shall find the same, if not a greater aversion to the Union, which amongst other things appears from the addresses that were presented during this session of Parliament, from several shires, stewartries, burghs, towns, and parishes situated in all corners of the land, Whig and Tory, Presbyterian and Episcopal, South and North, all agreeing against the Union. I know very well that the author of the History of Europe for the Year 1706, and that vile monster and wretch Daniel De Foe, and other mercenary tools and trumpeters of rebellion, have often asserted, that these addresses and other instances of the nation’s aversion to the Union, proceeded from the false glosses and underhand dealings of those that opposed it in Parliament, whereby the meanker sort were impos’d upon and deluded into those jealousies and measures. I shall not deny, but perhaps this measure of addressing had its first original, as they report; but ’tis absolutely false, to say that any sinister means were used to bring in subscribers; the contrary is notoriously known, for the people flock’d together to sign them, and express’d their resentments with the greatest indignation: neither was it from a mobbish humorish fit that this proceeded; for the barons and freeholders, being deny’d the liberty of giving instructions to their representatives, enter’d into this measure, as the most proper to signify their inclinations to them, and it is not to be express’d what a value, I may say veneration, the Commons shew’d for the soveraignty, which they express’d, by exclaiming against the taking away the crown and laws of the land. But I’d ask these hackney scriblers, if they reckon the barons and freeholders of the nation among the number of
these led horses; if they do, what shall become of the *vox populi*, will it continue *vox Dei*? I’d further ask them since these addresses were carried on, as they alledg’d, why did not the promoters of the Union bring counter addresses to the Parliament? Sure it won’t be said that they wanted inclination, interest, or reason on their side; this measure had taken away the argument of the nation’s dissatisfaction from the Anti-unioners and justified the promoters of the Union, that they did what was agreeable to the nation, at least to so many as should address for it; but the truth of the matter lies here: They did attempt it, but could prevail in no place but the town of Ayr, where they got one subscrib’d, but by so pitiful and small a number, that they thought shame to present it, especially when one, a little thereafter against the Union, was sign’d by almost all the inhabitants of that town; neither did they omit any thing in their power to obstruct the addresses against the Union, but without success, except in the shire of Ayr, where the Earls of Loudoun, Stair, and Glasgow, prevail’d with most of the gentlemen to lay it aside, (tho’ otherwise they express’d themselves as opposite to the Union, as in any other place) and in the town of Edinburgh, where after an address was signed by many thousands, they prevail’d with the magistrates to prohibit it, by threatening to remove the Parliament and Judicatories from thence; and lastly in those shires, where the great men that were promoters of the Union had their estates and interests (such as Argyleshire, Bute, Sutherland, &c.) and are as it were petty sovereigns themselves; yet they could not, tho’ they endeavour’d to, persuade their vassals and tenants to sign an address for the Union, and were oblig’d to compound with them not to sign against it.