So great is our Happiness in seeing the Protestant Succession at last take effect, and one of the greatest Princes that ever reign’d over a People seated on the British Throne, surrounded by a Royal Family as illustrious for their Merit as their Rank, and secur’d to us by their number, that one would almost forget the Destruction with which the late wicked Managers threatened us for the Safety which we enjoy under the present Administration. It has always been the distinguishing Character of the now Prevailing Party, that they love Mercy as well as Liberty; that they abhor Cruelty and Persecution; that they are never for spilling of Blood, but that of their Popish and French Enemies, and in fair Battel; but then there is something in the Proceedings of those hated Managers, something so very enormous and crying, it is not consistent with common Policy and common Justice to forgive and forget them, as if they had been guilty of common Errors only, such as Human Frailty exposed them to, and Human Compassion should excuse: For, no doubt all Nations of Europe have their Eyes upon us to see what we will do with a set of Men who were so near undoing both our selves and them.

The poor deluded Multitude, whom they first blinded with a sham Pretence of the Church, and the starving thoughtless Fry who fell in with them for Bread, are Objects of Pity, and not of Resentment. The best way to reclaim the former, will be by making them thoroughly sensible of their Felicity in the late happy Change, and the latter will be but too much punish’d by being oblig’d to give up the Advantages they made of their base Compliance to such as preserv’d their Integrity in those the very worst of Times.

As for the Managers themselves, they who broke the Treaty of the Grand Alliance, by sending P---r and M---r to France, to beg a Peace in a most Clandestine Manner, who receiv’d a Minister from thence without communicating a Word of it to any of the Allies, till the shameful Conditions of a Treaty were agreed to, who dissolv’d the Confederacy, who drew of the British Forces and Auxiliaries from the Confederate Army, and expos’d them to the Slaughter and Rout at Denain, who bully’d the Dutch into an Assent to what they knew and declar’d to be against their Interest, and even Security, who abandon’d the Emperor, and left the Catalans to be butcher’d by the French, notwithstanding their Neutrality, who gave up Trade to Spain and France, who obtain’d Elections by Tumults, Violence, and the most notorious Bribery, who made Peers by Dozens, who procur’d at one time £500,000 to be given them just before the Dissolution of a Parliament, under pretence of paying the Crown Debts, and distributed that Money among themselves and their Creatures, while the Crown Creditors were pop’d off with Tin Tallies at 30 per Cent. Loss, who insulted all the Lovers of their Country, and the Enemies of France in both Houses of Parliament, who gave Seats in the House of Peers to Scots L--ds, known to be in the Pretender’s Interest, and at the Publick Expence got others in the same Interests Votes in the House of Commons, such as Aldworth of Windsor, a Person bred up at St Omens, a Servant to the Chevalier de St George, a profess’d Zealot for his Service, protected in his Election by the C--- of the Castle, those who affronted the Minister of Hanover for presenting his Master’s excellent Memorial, prophetick of all their wicked Designs, and our future Evils, who refus’d to admit his Highness the Duke of
Cambridge to his Seat in Parliament, and sent away another of the Ministers of Hanover for demanding his Writ; who modell’d the Fleet and Army, putting out Officers of known Zeal to the Protestant Succession, and putting in others of as known Hatred to it; to instance among others, Colonel Sidney, who was remov’d to make room for Colonel O--- who threatened his now Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, with what should be done to him if he came hither, too horrid to be repeated, those who promoted Sachaverell an Incendiary condemn’d by Law, to one of the most Beneficial and Populous Parishes in England, made A---- a Bishop, Swift a Dean, and Higgins a Dignitary of the Church; who put Men of no Fortunes nor Morals into the Commissions of the Lieutenancy, and the Peace, purely for their readiness to comply with all their Ruinous Schemes, such as C---n of Westminster, J---l of Chelsea, W---d of E---g, with fifty more that might be nam’d within 20 Miles of London, and hundreds in other Parts of England; who employ’d a Crew of the most lying scandalous Scriblers, as Oldisworth, Defoe, Swift, Manley, &c. to vilify the Duke of M-----, and the wisest and most glorious Administration that ever this Kingdom was bless’d with: As for those Men, I say, with whose Crimes one might fill Volumes, if the subject was not too dismal to be remembred in this time of Joy, sure there is not a good Briton but will rejoice to see the Vigour of the Law exert itself, and Justice done to an injur’d Nation and Confederacy.

But it is not yet a Time to talk of these Things, nor are we the Judges. The Representative will doubtless examine strictly into the Treasonable Projects carry’d on against our Liberty and Religion; for when can they assert them better, and punish the Betrayers of them, than now we are assur’d we have a King whose heart is entirely English, in the genuine Sense of the Phrase? I did not question but the Method the Criminals would take to avoid the Reward due to their Crimes, would be that of Coiners, Felons, and other such Malefactors, that the Arch Offender would endeavour to get off by impeaching his Accomplices, would turn Evidence, and fasten their Necks in the Halter to save his own.

Accordingly five or six Days ago out comes the Secret History of the White Staff, written by Defoe, as is to be seen by his abundance of Words, his false Thoughts, and false English. The Man who set him to work paid him a Pension during all the time of his Management, tho’ he had help’d to set him in the Pillory seven or eight Years before. He gave him for this Work, so necessary to his own Preservation, as many Parcels and Hints of Memoirs, as he thought convenient, which the honest Author of The Shortest Way with the Dissenters, of Jure Divino, of the Review, of What if the Pretender Should Come? Of the Mercator, and an hundred other such Scriptions, was hir’d to out into his sweet way of Writing, to amuse People, if he could not convince them.

Should not this worthy Gentleman have been so just to himself and his Readers, as to have represented in what a happy Condition Affairs when he set about embroiling them by his Cabals and mean Arts? Should he not have told us, that the War we were carrying on Abroad for the Security of our Religion and Liberties was drawing to a glorious Issue; that the Exorbitant Power of France might have been so reduc’d in one Campaign more, that the Grand Lewis would not have thought himself safe in that Palace where he now shuffles with and insults us? Should he not have said that the Credit of the Nation was then in a much more flourishing Condition that it has been since the Peace he sent to France for; than our Reputation Abroad was rais’d as
much above all other Nations as it has sunk since he had anything to do with it: That we had a perfect good Understanding with our Allies, were trusted by them, and could trust one another, and that all at once by his Hellish Machinations, we fell from this State of Glory and Envy to one of Infamy and Contempt, having, nothing on our side but the Power we had given to France, ready at all Times to joyn with us in destroying our Friends, to have the easier Work in our own Destruction.

If he had begun his Secret History with this Truth, something might have been expected from his Repentance and Remorse; but to go about to impose still upon our Memories and Senses, and to think we had in our Fright forgot what a Condition he found us in, and in what a Condition he left us, is a sad sign of his being Incorrigible, and as insensible of his own Danger as he was of ours. But leaving all the success of our Affairs, Foreign and Domestick, to the Turn given to it, by his Brigues, Schemes and Conduct, let us a little more particularly examine his late Memorial.

And here I cannot help observing how he, or his Scribe, stumbles at the Threshold; how they discover their Stupidity and Ignorance, in telling the World out of his Histories of one Cardinal Minister, employ’d by a Queen, who supplanted his Benefactress, and remov’d her from the Regency, and an Archbishop who did the like by a King. Is not this enough to put one in mind, how for Two or Three Years all Approach to Her late Majesty was intercepted by this hopeful Prime Minister of Hers. That strange Speeches were delivered to the People as various as the Seasons which produc’d them, the Product of his Difficulties and Distress, without any Regard had to the Character of the Speaker, and one cannot doubt but his own Accomplices will tell us the opposition he met with from them was to deliver their Mistress from the Ascendancy he usurp’d over her, and restore her to the Exercise of a Soveraignty, which he had assum’d in everything but the Title; that in effect she was as much remov’d from the Regency and Administration as ever Mary de Medici was. What they themselves would have done with her had they gain’d their Ends, one may imagine by their great Moderation and Self-denial, in all the Parts of their Management. I will not pretend to vindicate his Associates, I am very well satisfy’d they are all alike. Men who could have the Conscience to thrust themselves, the worst of Men, into the Places of the very best, who could betray the Cause of Liberty for their private Advantages, and sacrifice Religion to their Passion; such Men were capable of doing any thing. I must confess amidst all that we suffer’d and fear’d from them, I was often in Admiracion that it was no worse with us, and puzzled to think where Three such Hands could be pick’d out again, had they not been sufficient without them to have ruin’d us and all Mankind.

’Twas a very great mistake for the Old Ministry to prosecute the worthless Sacheverell, to use his own Expression; but yet the Defending of this Man of no Worth, and the Sermon he preach’d, thou he owns it gave Offence, was all the Merit of himself, and his Party, and that too when they thems elves, as he says, did not in the least mean the Church by it; for he informs us the Prosecutors of Sacheverell were all Members of it. But notwithstanding what was pretended of the Church’s Danger, notwithstanding the Solemn Addresses of Sacheverell and other such Clergymen to Heaven in behalf of this Distress’d Church, the Staff tells you frankly, they had her not in their Hearts, but that use was made of the Prosecution of the Doctor to turn out Ministers, who were ruining the French, to bring in those that were so near ruining
ourselves. And this did the Tories do thro’ their great Foresight. The Enemies of the Ministers, says he, seeing further than others, were the first that laid the Bate to bring it up to an Impeachment, by which means they gain’d the Point they had long driven at, viz. To embroil the Ministry with the Church, at which Gap they broke in upon the Ministry, and supplanted them with the Queen.

Here this dextrous Cunning Politician opening his Heart with as much Simplicity as his Brother could have done, assures us, that the Faction trick’d us out of all the Blessings which would have attended a Glorious Peace, purely by using the Name of the Church. He says when the Ministry brought the Doctor’s Affair into the House of Commons, all they intended was to call this Worthless Man before them, to keep him a little in Custody, give him a Reprimand, and Censure his Sermon. But the Tories truly egg’d the Matter on further than the Whigs intended, and are not these Tories accountable to the Church for prostituting Her Sacred Name to their Avarice and Ambition? Sacheverell’s Impeachment, says Staff himself, was their Bate, the Church was the Tool these Tory Managers wrought with, and can She ever forget the Indignity they put upon her by abusing her Name, so far as to endanger her very Being?

Staff having put himself at the Head of the Faction, and call’d himself in many Pages the Prime Minister, pleads guilty to the general Charge, and in effect acknowledges that he himself, bred up in a Fanatick Conventicle and Seminary, with his noble Partner the Purse, did wholly by virtue of the Church’s Name arrive at a Power never heard of in England before. Where does our Law or History make mention of a Prime Minister? But it seems as much as he deals in Antiquity his Politicks are entirely Modern, and he borrows not his Models from either Greeks or Romans. The French did his Business, and he would have done ours.

If you’ll give Credit to him, he did not intend to remove any more of the old Ministers than was of absolute necessity, nor to dissolve the Parliament, nor put an end to the War. This he vows and protests never enter’d into his Mind, so that, it seems, it was not because the old Ministers were Peculators and Delighters in War, nor because it was a Consumptive Land War, nor because the Parliament condemn’d a Clergy-man, that the old Ministers were remov’d, the War ended, and the Parliament dissolv’d, but because the Prime Minister and his Seconds, as he calls them, perceiv’d there was a Design to overthrow them.

Thus it appears, that they were no more concern’d for the Nation in Temporal Matters than for the Church in Spirituals. Is this the subtle, the crafty, the double fac’d Janus? Do such Truths as these come out of the Staff’s Mouth? Truths as Simple as those that come out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings. Truths which the Whigs have said a Thousand and a Thousand Times, and been belied and bedivell’d for it by the Examiner, his Brother of St Patrick, and their Brethren. It is plain then, that whatever was said, whatever shall be said by such Men as these of the Church, and the Danger she is in, was and will be only said to make way for two or three such Managers as this Prime and his Seconds were. What good he would have done for us we may well imagine, by the Good he says they were doing us.

Tho’ every word he tells us of his being in Her Majesty’s Favour is an Affront
to Her Memory, yet we shall leave it to himself to make it out and excuse it as well as he can, and not trouble ourselves whether it be true or false, only enquire into his Merit, to see how worthy he was of it.

Staff enjoying his Hireling to speak of himself, tells us with equal Modesty and Truth, that the Old Ministry knew they were not able to Supplant him in the Favour of the Queen, or prevent Her Majesty giving him distinguishing Marks of that Favour even before their Faces: Yet knowing all this, they were so impolitick as to despite him; which indeed is so very true, that a Noble Lord of that Ministry would never hear of his being trusted, and when his fair Speeches and Pretences, which he never wanted, had influenced some others to have more favourable Thoughts of him, he has told them, You may think what you will of him, he’s nothing but a Jugler, and there never was a Jugler but he was a ----. This Great Man, as renown’d for his Probity as his Wisdom and Learning, would never consent to be in any Management with him, and how rightly his Lordship judged the History of the last Four Years does but too evidently demonstrate. However, he gives us to understand the Old Ministry were very much out in their Politicks not to take him in; and speaking of himself, for whatever Defoe says of him is doubtless his own, has these fine and delicate Expressions: The Staff was now given into my Hand, which, as was mention’d before, had been treated with so much impolitick Contempt, and the Prime Ministry put upon my Head; which, tho’ they always found capable, yet they never suffer’d themselves to think I could have gotten the start of them, as they found I had; and not content with this he brags that though he was turn’d out of a former Place with all the Marks of Resentment imaginable, even to Indecency, yet he govern’d all behind the Curtain, and made the Q----n do what he would have her. Nothing, says he, or Defoe for him, could prevent her Majesty from taking her Measures by my Counsels, in Contradiction to the Steps which they had often taken. Nay, the whole set of the old Ministry as Contemptibly as they us’d him, were as much governed by him in his Djasgrace, as the Q----n herself, squaring their Measures too by his Schemes, that they might seem to act from themselves what they should probably be obliged to do, after they had in vain oppos’d it.

A very likely Story this, or that her Majesty would give Ear to him in private, after what she was pleas’d to tell the Lords in publick; for when the House of Lords made an Address to her Majesty, upon the Discovery of Gregg’s Treason, setting forth the Mismanagements in the Secretary’s Office on that occasion, her Majesty was graciously pleas’d to answer, ‘That this very Man’s Example would be a sufficient warning to keep all Matters of Importance secret, and to employ such only as there should be Grounds to believe would be faithful.’

Is it likely, that after such sufficient warning, he should be admitted into the deepest Arcanas of State, and trusted with things which the Ministry themselves were not trusted with? But if such Trust was put in him, after such a Warning, ought he to be the Discoverer of the Secret? and should it not have been bury’d for ever with the Royal Ashes, which cannot be profan’d without the greatest Impiety?

We all remember what a Bustle was made upon Guiscard’s Attempt, and how the Examiner, whom the Staff set to work, and paid him his Wages of Two or Three Hundred a Year, charged the whole Body of the Whigs with that Design to assassinate his Master, though the Staff himself, who then employ’d him, now freely owns, that
not only the Body of the Whigs, but the old Ministers themselves were pleas’d to see him escape such a Tragical Attempt.

Good God! and knowing all this, could he suffer his Scriblers as Abel and the Examiner to give out that the old Ministry and the Whigs set Guiscard to work? The Examiner cry’d out, It is worth observing what a Concurrence there is between some Persons once in Power, and a French Papist, and to confirm this, he tells one of the greatest Lyes that Man was ever convicted of, that Guiscard was invited over by that Ministry: For the Truth is, and the Staff knew it, the Court of Vienna sent him hither without our Court’s knowing anything of the Matter, till he came.

This not being to my present Purpose, I shall say no more of it, only observe, that the Man who will hire a Libeller to say what he Knows to be false, not only of particular Men, but of whole Bodies of Men, must have a Conscience capable of everything, and we ought not to be surpriz’d at any of his Male-Practices, or doubt the Truth of the most Incredible…