And de Foe, or Foe, (for it seems he set out with the last of those Names) had the Modesty to address a Performance of his to the King, under the following Title, *The original Power of the collective Body of the People of England examin’d and asserted*: At the Entrance of which he tells his Majesty, “Tis not the least of the Extraordinaries of your Majesty’s Character, That as you are King of your People, so you are the Peoples King.” And having, in the general, maintain’d, That this *original Power* was the *Origin of all Powers*; as also, That, notwithstanding all the Powers they voluntarily cede to King, Lords and Commons, they have still a Reserve in their own Hands, which they may and ought to make use of, as a Preservative against any Encroachment from any of their Delegates, he procedes to inculcate, That *parliamentary Power* may be *abus’d* as well as Kingly: And infers, That, in such Case, People have a Right to seek their own Redress their own Way…The same Author also practis’d on the Passions of the Public in more Shapes than one, as will presently be made appear.

But these Paper-Batteries were not rais’d merely to maintain speculative Points, or to defend or explode the Measures of either Side: On the contrary, as the Dispute grew warm it grew personal too, and that to a Degree of Asperity and Scurrility, never practis’d before. In the *Jura populi Anglicani*, almost every Man of Eminence in the House of Commons, who had been active against the *Impeach’d* Lords, or who had demurr’d to an immediate War, were expos’d by *Name*, or by *Initials*, which was nearly the same Thing, with as little Mercy as Jack How had been expos’d in the *Legion-Letter*: Nor were their Adversaries at all backward in making suitable Reprisals: So that if the Evidence on each Side was admitted against the other, it would follow, That there was not a spotless Character of any Significancy left in the whole Country.

Knowing, however, That unless they could write their Adversaries *out* of the House of Commons, the Blackening of them *there* would signify but little; the Whigs resolv’d so to manage, if possible, the Popularity they had so wonderfully and causelessly recover’d, that it might produce a *Dissolution*, how premature and how inconsistent with the King’s Speech at the Prorogation, soever.

Following, therefore, the Way they had open’d by the *Kentish Petition*, they took Advantage of the enflamatory Incident which the *Court of France* had furnish’d them with, by acknowledging the P.P. of *Wales* to inspire the People, with the same turbulent Spirit which had in the former Case infatuated the County of *Kent*, and which, if the Train had took, was to have been communicated thro’ the whole Kingdom: For tho’ they had recourse to Addresses instead of Petitions, and it was thought more advisable to struggle for a *new Parliament*, than to carry on the Contest with That in *being*, they worked on the same Model, and they had the same Purposes to serve.

The City of *London*, which led the Way, contented themselves, however, with declaring their Resentment of the *Affront* offer’d to his Majesty by the *French King*, and with asserting, it was the *apparent Purpose* of the said King to *dethrone* his Majesty, *extirpate* the *Protestant* Religion, &c. And as soon as the other Party became
sensible of the Practice on foot, they not only set forth a Recital of, *The several Proceedings and Resolutions of the House of Commons in relation to the Dangers threatening England and the Liberties of Europe, from the late Succession to the Crown of Spain*, in order to blast the Intrigue, but also added a remarkable Postcript in the following Words.

“Since these Sheets were prepar’d for the Press, three Addresses from the Grand Juries at the late Assizes have been printed, full of the like Insinuations as the Kentish Petition, and besides are prescribing to the King, and bespeaking a Dissolution of the Parliament: These are farther Efforts of a restless and malicious Party of Men, who are busy, and casting about always to restore themselves and their Friends to that Power and Authority which they have for several Years exercis’d most partially, corruptly, and arbitrarily, almost to the utter Ruin and Destruction of this Nation; by procuring to themselves vast and exorbitant Grants of Monies, Lands and Pensions; by unprofitable and expensive Projects; by diverting and misapplying public Monies, and, as a necessary Consequence from such Practices, by contracting immense Debts, which the most regular, wise, and virtuous Administration cannot soon clear. This is the Case, whatever popular Turn they give it; and such weak, seditious Endeavours must have their due (that is, little) Weight, with all that consider what Artifices have been used for compassing them, by packing Juries, (and they not unanimous) and by a Multitude of Falshoods and Calumnies that have been rais’d, and with the utmost Confidence and Assurance spread abroad, and reported to mislead and deceive honest and well-meaning Persons: And yet, after all, such is the good Sense of our Gentry and Freeholders, they are not easily to be impos’d on, and therefore these Men have not been able, by all their Artifices and Emissaries, to obtain more than these (Three) Addresses from the Fifty-two Counties of England and Wales and them too not without the greatest Difficulty, as well as Disingenuity.”

The Whigs, on the other Hand, having discover’d in the same Interval, That Poussin, the French Secretary, had been seen at a Tavern in Company with Dr Davenant, Mr Hammond, and Mr Tredenham, took the Hint to brand the whole Tory-Party with the Name of Pousineers, and to propagate a scandalous Insinuation, That the Business of the Evening, was to settle a criminal Correspondence between the French Court and its Factors in the English Parliament, which laid those Gentlemen under a Necessity to justify themselves in print, by proving, That the Meeting was merely accidental: That they were together but three Quarters of an Hour, and that the Doors were open all the while. So low will Faction stoop, for any dirty Card to forward its Game. The Addresses, however, went on with so much Zeal and Rapidity, that every Gazette overflow’d with them; tho’ such as were most cool and moderate, were but just acknowledg’d, to make Room for the inserting Others at large: For as the Rage of addressing had seiz’d the Nation, both Parties were at last oblig’d to give into it: And yet there being an apparent Difference both in the Matter and Manner of them, it furnish’d the Handle for preferring some and rejecting others.

To particularise the Flatteries, Follies, Absurdities and Extravagances contain’d in them, would be a Work without End … But it ought not to be forgot, That while France was so outrageously treated for the impolitic Step she had made in relation to the P. P. of Wales, Fœ, the Legion-Letter-Writer, set forth a plausible Pamphlet, under the Title of, *The present State of Jacobitism considered, in Two Queries*: I. What Measures the French King will take with respect to the Person and
Title of the P. P. of Wales? 2. What the Jacobites in England ought to do on the same Account? And contains, according to the Words of the Preface, a kind Invitation to the Jacobites to come into the Bosom and Protection of the Government: But under an Insinuation, That in case of Refusal, the Nation would be blameless, if a Law should ever be promoted, to exclude them absolutely from either the Benefit or Protection of the Government. The Aim of this Proteus of an Author, is to convince the said Jacobites, That their Condition is not at all mended, by the Conduct of the French Court in that Case: That the Obligation of their Oath to King James, expir’d with him; and that, therefore, Prudence requir’d, and Conscience did not withstand, an immediate Transfer of their Allegiance to King William. But the most remarkable Sally which he makes in his Way, is the following notable Apology for the French Court; to wit: “If we must argue from French Conduct, we must bring French Arguments: ’Tis a small Shift for a Frenchman to say, That they distinguish between a King-Regent and a King-Titular: That the Title, having been once legally the late King James’s, may as legally descend, as the Title of a Duke, tho’ another may be possess’d of his Estate: And this may be no Bar to his Confederate King William, who is King-Regent: That this is a Concession of Honour to the Son of a King, who cannot lose the Title, tho’ he may the Possession: That ’tis not his Part to consider King William’s Title, any farther than the Peace of Ryswick requir’d: But for King James’s Title, ’twas not expected nor articled in that Treaty, That he should not be call’d King of England: And it can no more be a Breach of the Peace to call his Son King of England, than it was to call his Father so: And, besides, all this is but the Civility of a Court, and Matter of Honour to Families which no way concerns nor ought to disturb the English Court: For while the Article of lending assistance is kept intire, this Trifle need give no Ground of Dissatisfaction to any Body.”

But to procede: While the Kingdom seem’d to reel with the Violence of these Party Convulsions, the Point so vehemently press’d by the Whigs without Doors, (namely, a Dissolution of the Parliament) was agitated with equal Warmth in the Cabinet. B----- Burnet says, “It was the first Thing that fell under Debate on the King’s Return”: And in the same Breath he also intimates, That some of the leading Members of the House of Commons were secretly ask’d (another Expression for Closetting it must be suppos’d) How They thought They would procede, if They should meet again? Whence we are to infer, That if they would have comply’d with the Court-Terms, the King would have comply’d with the Letter of his Speech at the Close of the last Session, and suffer’d them to sit again: But some answering doubtfully, according to the same Author, and others possitively, That they would begin where they left off (why, by the Way, is absolutely deny’d in the Writings of the Party a Dissolution was resolv’d on, and the Parliament was dissolv’d accordingly, by the same Proclamation of November 11.
In a Paper which came to be call’d, *The Black List*: It contain’d 167 Names of Members, 46 of whom lost their Elections: It was observ’d, one of the Whig Lords was present in the same House at the same Time: And it is asserted, That the Order for *M Poussin* to leave the Kingdom, was serv’d upon him in that very Company.

2 The *Jacobites* set forth an Answer to this Piece, under the same Title, with the Addition of these Words, *Part the Second*; in which they take great Advantage of this Passage, as if the Author, notwithstanding the soft Language he makes use of, design’d to practise the same Rigors in *England*, which were practis’d in *France*, by *Despotism*.

3 See a Pamphlet call’d, *Tom Double return’d out of the Country* (writ by Davenant, pp. 57-8).