

To the Right Honourable
HENRY Earl of *Clarendon*,
Vicount *Cornbury*, and
Baron *HIDE* of *Hindon* :

One of the Lords of His Majesties
Most Honourable Privy-Council.

MY LORD,

I Present your Lordship with
a small *Compendium* of many
Great and Strange Revoluti-
ons ; The Greatest, perhaps,
that ever happen'd in *England*,

The Epistle

in ſo ſhort a ſpace of Time. A Tempeſtuouſ ſeaſon, in which ſome Waves have daſht againſt your Lordſhip, tho' of ſo eminent a Character for Loyalty and Goodneſs. But when Princes themſelves ſuffer, 'tis the beſt Subjects Glory to ſuffer with them. This, My Lord, was no New thing to your Lordſhip, who was, in a manner, born a Sufferer for Monarchy, and whoſe Blooming Years had the Honour to ſhare in the ſame Exile with your King. 'Tis ſtrange-ly fatal to conſider, that thoſe againſt whom the diſaffected
Party

Dedicatory.

Party made of late, the
Lowdest outcry, were *Old
Cavaliers*: A Word almost
forgotten, had not that Occa-
sion brought it again to Me-
mory. It seems, there needs
no more than to read the Facti-
on backwards, and one may see
by their false Clamours, who
were the Kings best Ministers
and Friends. 'Twas the true
Honour and Allegiance of that
August Assembly in which
your Lordship made one of
the Better Part, that has Eter-
nized the Fame of *Englands
Baronage*, and made it Glorious
and beloved for ever. No

The Epistle, &c.

will Posterity forget a just Applause to the Illustrious Name of *Clarendon*, when they read it in the List of those *Truly Noble Peers*, who in Duty to the Crown and Royal Family, incurr'd the Angry Vote of a numerous, a Violent, and Over-daring Party. Your Lordship being so far, and so honourably, concern'd in the History of these Times, it is my Ambition to take this Occasion to declare my self,

MY LORD,

Your Lordships,

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

James Wright,

THE
Preface.

THere are some Scandals so Gross, that the Bare Repetition of them is a sufficient Refutation, and manifestation of their Falsehood. In like manner some Actions are so unwarrantable to all men of Reason, that only to relate them is to disgrace the Actors, and those Principles that occasion'd such extravagant behaviour.

The Preface.

Such I esteem the factious Tumults and Riotous Proceedings, which of late Years have disturb'd the Quiet of so many honest Men and Loyal Subjects, to the Terror of this, and Amazement of all the Neighboring Nations.

The Vehemency of which Revolutions did appear too like that of Naples in the Year 1647. 'Tis true, these were not so suddain, nor altogether so Bloody; which must be ascribed to the Almighty Power and Goodness of God, and the Vigilant Prudence of His late Majesty (of glorious Memory). We see what the Party offer'd,

Not

The Preface.

Not to mention the Street-Tumults; How like were the Riots at our Guild-Hall to those at their Church of the Carmelites? And to their tumultuous burning the Gabellers Goods, I think I may, not unaptly, compare our burning the Pope, and other Burnings. And to parallel their Massaniello, a poor Fisherman, but of stupendious Authority, had not we also, a little Creature of as Low and obscure Quality (bating his assumed Cassok) who was as much adored, and I may say, almost Deified by the Rabble.

*I am heartily sorry and asham'd to think That the chief Disparity
between*

The Preface.

between their Case and ours, will appear to the Disadvantage of the English. For what the Neopolitans did, they were induced to on the sole Account of their grievous and Intolerable Taxells; but we a free and happy People, became Seditious, and so very unquiet, for no present Cause, but only future apprehensions, and (as the Event has shew'd 'em to be) meer Chimærical and empty Fears.

(But praised be God,) Peoples Eyes begin to be open, and time has apply'd a Collyrium that makes us see cleerly through the Pretences and Umbrage that was raised to serve a Faction. It is
easy

The Preface.

*easy now to distinguish the stalking
horse from the Fowler that sculks
behind. Which thing of late Years,
many either cou'd not, or wou'd not
see, being inwardly as Purblind,
as he was outwardly that misled
em.*

*And in this I think the Nati-
on is not a little obliged to the Ex-
cellent Author of the Observa-
tor; A person who may be com-
pared to some Pictures, that are
placed too neer the sight to disco-
ver their true value. I am con-
fident that the next Age, who will
behold him at a more advantagious
and impartial Distance, will have
a truer and far greater esteem. of
his*

The Preface.

his Merits. I do not at all admire (but think it extream natural) that the Disloyal Party and their Adherents do hate him with such a perfect hatred. How could they Possibly do otherwise to one who discovers their Cheat, and puts 'em by from what they had been so long designing, when they were arrived almost to the very Day of Execution.

The Subject of this little Book (most of which was Printed before His late Majesty fell ill) is only to remember, in a short Abstract, what strange and unwarrantable Proceedings have been within the space of Seven Years lately past,

The Preface.

past, with what Heats they were transacted, how Truth and Loyalty were run down with noise and Cant, and how People were scared out of their Wits with such monstrous Legends, that had not we who are now alive seen it with our Eyes; who would have believed it? Posterity will scarce credit the folly of their Ancestors; or if they do, they will blush to think an Englishman cou'd be so far imposed upon.

The Memory of these things ought to keep People from Running upon the same Shelves and Sands, where formerly we were in Danger to have perisht.

He

The Preface.

He that would give a Punctual and Particular Account of all the Narratives, Discoveries, Tryals, Executions, Speeches, Votes, Accusations, Examinations, Commitments, Tumultuous Elections, Petitions, Ryots, Libells, and Seditious Attempts of all sorts, during the said time, must write a History more Voluminous than Fox or Hollinshead. I pretend not therefore to observe all particulars that happen'd in this space of time, but, only those which I thought most Material, and of greatest Note.

*What I have related, was set down every thing at the time
when*

The Preface.

when it happen'd. Meer matter of Fact: without any Reflections, otherwise than as the thing it self does reflect to the Dishonour of that Faction which has occasion'd all these past Troubles, and to the Glory of that God who has deliver'd us out of the Danger.

I hope those who have been seduced and misled by Specious pretences, into ill Actions (as Charity bids me think there are many such) will by reflection on the past, see, and abhor their Errors.

They need not blush to Repent and Confess such faults, which some of Note and Quality have done

The Preface.

done already. Heaven is full of those that have been Converts ; But the Impenitent must fill another place, where it will be a Double Hell to remember that they might once have received Grace and pardon, but refused it.

(I)

A BRIEF
Historical Account
Of the
PUBLICK TRANSACTIONS
During the 30th Year of the Reign of
KING CHARLES II.
Anno Dom. 1678.

I Design, in the Method observed by Annalists, to commit to memory the Publick Transactions during the 30th Year of His Majesty's Reign; a Year which seems remarkable, and to promise more than usual; since that number hath been more than once signal in the course of His Royal Life. In the 30th Year of this Century (1630) He
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