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THE  
DECLARATION

Of the Right Honourable

HENRY  
EARLE OF  
CUMBERLAND

LORD Lievtenant Generall of His  
MAJESTIES Forces in *Yorke-Shire.*

And of the *Nobility, Gentry, and others*  
His Majesties Subjects now assembled at *Yorke* for  
His Majesties Service and the Defence of  
This City and County.



Printed at *Yorke* by *Stephen Bukley, 1642.*  
By *speciall command.*



THE  
DECLARATION

Of the Right Honourable, *Henry*

*Earle of Cumberland, &c.*

**F**ROM the deep sence of the growing miseries which have formerly afflicted this distressed Country, and our of the grievous apprehension of those inevitable ruines, and desolations; with a reall War fomented, hatched, and brought forth by our continuall distractions, must infallibly bring upon us; We thought it the least of our duty to our God, our King, and our country, to endeavour all means possible to discharge our selves before God and Man, and to leave nothing unattempted which might avert and prevent those fearfull calamities (which as it must be consequently the most bloody and ruineous) war of all others; and therefore in pursuance of that due affection to our Native Country; We first prevailed with our most gracious Sovereigne, whose Royal Inclination met our humble desires, in the most ready wayes, and a pparent meanes which we could devise and finde out for the peace and safety thereof, and set aside all other respects, though never so much conducing to the main of His owne affaires, for our security; and therefore carried a way the fatall Cloud of War, which in a hideous form hung over our heads, to disburden it selfe in another Clymate, so as we conceived we had no further worke or labour, but to pay the duties of prayse and thankfulnessse to our God and King, whose grace and goodnesse had freed us from the visible consequences of a great and terrible tempest. but since it hath pleased the

the unsearchable Wisedome of Almighty  
it, That another storme hath broken and powred a great part of  
it upon this Country (when we least feared, and by those means  
which we least suspected) and that contrary to all expectation  
work our misery) there appeared, those out of our owne Bowels,  
which have begun a War and kindled a flame; which doth haz-  
ard the ruine and destruction of their Native Country; which  
we take as a Punishment due to our manifold sins and offences,  
and leave the particular executioners thereof, to His owne wise-  
dome and Justice hereafter. yet we have not been a wanting to  
the safety and protection of this People (so long, and in so many  
wayes afflicted, but have appolyed our selves to all such wayes  
and means, which in Humane reason we could hope might pro-  
cure a timely remedy to those bleeding wounds. And therefore  
in a Treaty at *Rodwell*, with some Gentlemen of this County, of  
whose affection to peace and Unity (though differing in Opini-  
on from us) we were most confident: Sundry Articles were a-  
greed and Concluded upon, all wholly tending to those ends,  
and conducing to reall settlement, which was sought after by us  
with so much candor plaine dealing, and earnestnesse, that we  
willingly let passe the manifest advantages which we then had  
over the opposers of the settled Peace of this County, and judg-  
ing the affections of others by our own desires and inclinations,  
declined and quitted all other considerations, but such as might  
purchase a good correspondence and amity with those Gentle-  
men and others, whom at that time it lay in our Power to have  
forced or destroyed; and that nothing might be wanting to ob-  
lige them, sett at Liberty sundry Prisoners, some of good qua-  
lity, upon their word and Faith, to returne them againe if the  
Treaty were not performed; and condescended to all the World  
knows That we aymed at the Publique safety & assurance: Yet  
not withstanding all this, without the least breach on our behalfe,  
particular passions and interests hath so far prevailed, That as,  
soone as they were freed of the danger wherein they were then  
engaged, contrary to their *Hands, Faith and protestations*, they  
have wholly broken that Agreement so solemnly concluded,  
& without rendring the least reason (which indeed is impossible  
and of which they can never excuse themselves) have with

in... ions; and by a specious offer of Peace (which it seems was the least of their thoughts) strengthened, and prepraed themselves for War, by pretence of safety to the County, disveloped themselves from danger; and procured security to their own persons; and by a seeming desire to stop the deluge of War (began by them alone) opened a breach to all the miseries & calamities which must now most inevitable overwhelm this distressed Country; whereby before the utmost extremity hath appeared, we have already suffered what can befall any people (setting aside, firing Townes and Villages) by the Hand of a cruell and Forraigne enemy; Strangers brought in to oppresse us, our houses plundred, goods destroyed and taken away, our households dispersed, Wives and children banished, the persons of divers of us seized, and Imprisoned, our lives endangered, and sought after, by Sword or Famine; (and what is beyond all beleife) those who are unquestionably innocent, and in no capacity to be involved in our pretended offences (if we be guilty of any) our Children (even those whole Infanti yeares admit no colour of objection) our Servants (employed only in domestick commands) sought after, and indangered in the same measure and degree of cruelty, violence, and oppression. And that no aggravation may be wanting to encrease our sufferings; all those exorbitances executed under the glorious pretences of safety of Religion and preservation of State; and done by Authority and command of Parliament (which we acknowledge and beleive to be the Guard and of Publique liberry) and who we are confident being chosen by us for assertors of our Freedoms, will not enthrall us; being trusted with the property of our goods, will not take them from us; being selected for the preservation of our Laws, will not violate or infringe them; and that in so high a measure, as more could not be perpetrated, if we were conquered and subdued by the most barbarous and violent Enemy. We have heard and do beleive, That both the Houses have commanded the *Militia* to be settled & that they think it necessary, for some reasons (best knowne to themselves) that the power which untill this time, hath bin unquestionably in the Kings of this land, shold now be settled in themselves yet these admitted, we cannot be perswaded, That it is the intention or meaning of the Parliament, that all who are not convin-

vinced of the necessity, or who call  
Oathes, which ties them to the knowne Lawes of the Land  
till they be repealed, and to obey His Maiesties command in  
those things wherein it appears Hee hath manifest Right, untill  
He hath given a way and parted with that Right by His own  
assent, or who are yet Newters, and conscionably, expect a  
legal Rule whereby to be directed, should presently with out  
due proesse of Law, be deuested from all property of Goods,  
Liberty of persons, Lives and Fortunes, and be in a worse con-  
dition for not performing what is it no Law, then any Man can  
be for offending and disobeyng all the Lawes which were ever  
yet established: and much lesse, that the friends and servants, the  
faulty and guiltlesse, those whose condition or inability free  
them from assisting in, or exercising any *Militia*, Clergy-men,  
Babes, Old Men, women, should be included and wrapped up  
in one common fate and destruction, contrary to the rules of  
God and nature, which make a large differene between the inno-  
cent, and the offender, and the customs and Lawes of this Realme,  
which give freedom to diverse in those cases and have so long  
maintained this Kingdom in peace, by distributing rewards and  
punishments (not to all a like) but to the conscionably obedient,  
or wilfull contemnners thereof. These destructive courses of vio-  
lence, pretending necessity, were ever opposed when they were  
executed by Regall power, deferred & protested against by his  
Sacred *Majesty*, altogether condemned by former, and this pre-  
sent Parliament, and not to be done or consented to by any, with-  
out disobedience to His *Majesty*, offence to the Parliament, and  
injury to the Freedom and Liberty if this people and Kingdom.  
But wee are farre from believing these to be the command and  
Acts of an English Parliament, which our selves have so earnest-  
ly desired, so faithfully supported; but rather of some persons,  
who (being now) contrary to their hopes, armed with power  
to gaine the affections of their Souldiers for farther ends and  
designes, and to make their particular profit by the generall  
spoyle, give way to this licentiousnesse, and suffer them to ran-  
some persons and destroy the goods of the innocent people, and  
to make havocke and spole of all which comes in their way, let-  
ting loose the Raines of government, and giving way to all man-  
ner of rapine (though the gaine on the r side doth in no measure

Coun. 24116 (on the other) to the unspeakeable detri-  
ment and dammage of this our flourishing, now miserable Coun-  
try. By which courses it hath bene already endammaged (as  
we offer to make good) to the value of 100000 pound, besides  
the sufferance of many such barbarous outrages, scarce credible  
to be committed by Christians; and those so frequent, that if  
possible, they can be denyed; and that the Houses will admit  
the prooffe, we shall make them appeare in such numbers, and so  
abominable, will exceed the beliefe of any, unlesse they see  
them sufficiently witnessed and attested. Out of our desire of  
peace, we have already endured beyond mortall sufferance, and  
are ready to suffer still in our owne particulars; and to set a part  
all Interests of our owne, and to expose our selves to the height  
of violence and rigour though undeserved (unlesse to obey our  
King according to His Laws be an offence) before wee will ha-  
zard the peace of this County, and this people, for any regard  
or respect whatsoever. And therefore because as our Adverfa-  
ries do speciously pretend, That their Armes are raised only for  
seizing upon Delinquents, and bringing them to condigne pu-  
nishments, or driving them out of the Country (which is their  
baite to catch the multitude.) We do unanimously professe and  
declare (although we are confident, and that their practises hew  
that whosoever hath mony or Plate, or Moveables, is a Delin-  
quent, and must part with them ere he be guiltles.) to take away  
all scruples, if they will set down and expresse the names of the  
delinquents (if any be amongst us) and their offences, upon assu-  
rance that no other end is sought by their Armes; and that once  
obtained, they wil absolutely lay them down, and free the coun-  
try: it shall be manifested, That we will not decline any just and  
legall tryall, or desire that a war should be continued, or the peo-  
ple disturb'd for the safeguard of them, or any of them: although  
we are most assured, that when by the tearme of Delinquency,  
they have quit their hands of such, who are most likely to op-  
pose the ruinous proceedings, that others whose wealth, estates,  
or former actions displeasing to these men, have made them ob-  
noxious, shall succeed in the same misery; and very many, who  
suppose themselves in a good condition of grace and favour with  
them, shall fall into the like misfortune, as soone as the Lion sees  
fit

fit time to discover his hidden Claws ; it being impossible they should be in a better estate of Innocency, then our selves, who have not at all wilfully offended, or opposed any of the knowne Lawes of this Kingdom. We have had wofull and sad experience, that the more our Adversaries are sought unto for peace, the farther they are estranged from it; and that all lenitive applications, doe but exasperate our disease. We doe protest before God and man, That wee will yet apply our selves to all meanes which may conduce to quiet, and settlement ; but in the meane time will really and effectually labour for the safety of this Country, our selves, our wives, and children ; and if for the preservation of all, that ought to be defended, and maintained by Mortall Man : we are necessitated and compelled by their example to call in Forces, and desire the Assistance of the Earle of Newcastle, and of our friends and Neighbours in the adjacent Counties (being of our own nation, and whose turne is next, and cause the same with ours, and that thereby some unforeseene or unwished accident arise, not then to be remedied, and that Yorkshire become an Akeldama and field of bloud, we lay the consequences and effects thereof at the doores, and upon the heads of those men who first begun, and kindled the flame in this County, and have hitherto refused our most brotherly and peaceable offers, and endeavouring for unity and tranquility, which on our parts hath bin so earnestly sought after, and attempted ; that we can justly now say, we have freed our owne soules. discharged the duty of Christians, Englishmen, Patriates, and have bin refused in all : so as there remains no more, but to defend our Country from Strangers, our lives from violence, our Wives and children from extremity of injury, our Houses from Rapine, our goods from spoyle, our Laws, liberties, property, and whatsoever is or can bee neere or deare unto us, from utmost hazard and destruction. In execution or which resolution, there is no course or means omitted, which may (as far as is possible) conduce to the benefit and preservation of the people. The Earle of Newcastle required assurance before he would march to our assistance, that the Country should be payed the billet of his Soldiers, which was before thought upon, and resolved by us, and caution is accordingly given ; so that no man will receive losse

or damage by those forces, as far as it is in our power to provide or foresee. And because they have hitherto built up themselves upon false reports and foundations, and disguise and make the truth according as it may best fit their ends, and serve their purposes; and thereby not onely perswade the people with deceitfull rumours of his Majesties unfortunate proceedings (when in truth God hath wonderfullly blessed him with most fortunate successe) but also casting false lights before their eyes, lay scandalous aspersions upon our actions and reall intendments, for the benefit of this County, striving to possessè them with a prejudicacy of whatsoever we go about to do; & accordingly are now seeking to poyson the minds of the people with a false opinion, and causelesse jealousie, That the Army now comming to our assistance, is assigned for the oppression, not deliverance; the destruction, not safegard of the Country; and will be the ruine of it wheresoever they passe. To stop the poysonous mouthes of malice it selfe, the Earle of New-Castle hath declared his honourable Intentions, to leave the Country in peace, as soone as he hath delivered it from these enemies of His Majesty, who now oppresse and tyrannise over it. In which endeavour wee doubt not, to find the reall concurrence of all who have interest in this County, and that they will not be behind their Neighbours and Allyes in seeking their owne preservations; being all owners of one common cause, and must (what ever pretences be made) in the end, runne the same course of violence and dissolution. However, though we perish in this work, we shall rest satisfied, that we have preserved our Faith and Honour untainted; and if all other disert us in this resolution, wee will not faile our selves, nor our duty to our King and Country, wherein appears so much Justice and Piety: but are most confident by Gods blessing upon the performance of our just endeavours, to repress the enemies of His Majesties peace, and to conferye our selves and this Country, to the Glory of God, the service of our King, and mutuall comfort of one another.

FINIS.







