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A
LETTER
TO THE
Good People
OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

O Fortunatos nimium, bona si sua nōrint, Britannos!



L O N D O N,

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LETTER

NO. 1

Good People

AND

WORTHY RELATIONS

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COUNTRYMEN,

IT is a pleasure that I am free to write, and you to read without danger, every thing that concerns the Common Good of our Country. It is in our memory, when all Wrong was done with impunity, and born with silence; when all your Rights, both Sacred and Civil, were betray'd by Court-Flattery, and violated by Power. You then suffer'd patiently many repeated Instances of Illegal Violence, as it became good Subjects to a Prince misled. But when your Religion, Liberty, Laws, were universally brought into evident and extreme Danger; you us'd the last means for their Preservation, as it became brave Men, justly concern'd for the Good of their Country and Posterity. When those, who had fail'd to reduce you to Slavery by domestick Arts, attempted to do the same thing by foreign Force, by the Arms of the *French*, perpetual Enemies to your Religion, Statè and Name; you defended your selves in a long War, attended with many necessary Difficultys, with such Bravery and Success, as will be glorious to all Posterity, and such as might be well hop'd from *English*-Men contending against Oppression.

So that these methods of working your Ruin by Foreign Force, appear now to your Enemies desperate. And they have therefore turn'd themselves to ways more secret and base, and, as appears by their Advances, more dangerous than open War. They labour by some of your Preachers to insil Doctrines, under pretence of Religion, destructive of your Laws and Constitution, of your present happy Settlement under her Gracious Majesty, and of all future Hopes of Liberty under Protestant Successors. They have taught, and teach daily, not in a manner becoming the Ministers of Peace, but in a Language apt to enrage and inflame popular Sedition; That all the Acts of Violence and Wrong committed by a Prince against Religion and Law, upon the Goods or Persons of his People, must be born patiently, without a Hand lift up for the common Safety, under pain of Damnation: Whereby they insinuate intelligibly enough, and as plainly as they dare for the Law, That the Resistance used to bring about the late Happy Revolution was a Damnable Rebellion; and consequently the present Government, which is founded upon it, an abominable Usurpation.

They further strenuously inculcate, that the best Title of a Prince to the Crown is an Hereditary one: and that they don't affirm (as formerly they did) there can be no other Right, is, because they are restrain'd by the Terror of a late very penal Law. Now by this Doctrine they

they make her Majesty's Title to stand only upon the Question of another's Illegitimacy, and undoubtedly prefer the Popish House of *Savoy* to the Protestant Family of *Hanover*: Removing thus all the firm Supports, whereby the Wisdom of the Parliament meant to strengthen her Majesty's Right to the Crown, and that of the Protestant Succession. For is it not plain, if the Right of Birth be preferable to that of the Law, that the only Question betwixt the Queen and the Pretender, is, whether the latter be legitimate? And will it not be clear upon this Scheme, when the Contest shall be betwixt the House of *Hanover* and *Savoy*, that tho' the former has a Right by a legal Establishment, yet the latter has the better and surer Right by Birth? These are the plain Consequences of these Doctrines; and it is much to be fear'd, when your Minds shall be strongly prepar'd and possess'd with such Opinions, That these Preachers will then abandon her Majesty, for no other reason but because she has too much Goodness to invade your Rights, or to infringe the legal Indulgence granted to the different Opinions of some of your Brethren, who by their peaceable Behaviour, and constant Zeal in supporting the Government, have well deserv'd that Favour? And there shall then be produc'd to you a pretended Heir of the *Royal Line*, bred in the Policy and Religion of *France*; in whom, according to these mens Scheme, shall be found this

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Character of *Hereditary Right*. And you shall see that the Thred of his Illegitimacy will be like nothing in the hands of these *Sampsons*, who are endeavouring to break the strong twisted Cord of so many Laws.

When these Doctrines were deliver'd by one railing Paeacher, upon a most solemn occasion, in the face of the Government, I thought such a Criminal might, by the example of his Punishment, have been brought to make some amends to the Publick for the mischief of his Offence, without occasioning the least disturbance. But when the Men, who in the late Revolution had preserv'd your Religion and Libertys with the utmost peril of their Lives, went about *now* to justify what they did *then*, against one who had so openly reproach'd and condemn'd that Conduct which deliver'd you from a grievous and unjust Oppression: This Man, whom no body ever esteem'd but for his Boldness, found himself strongly supported by many ill-designing, many ignorant Persons; partly by that Reverend Body, whom it rather concern'd (if they had rightly understood) to have yielded him to Justice, for so base an Abuse of their Holy Office: but principally by those Men, who a little above twenty years ago obstructed your Deliverance as far as lay in their power.

Now, my Countrymen, I would have it consider'd for what ends these Doctrines can be taught and inculcated with so much Vehemence.

mence. Can you believe that these Preachers contend so eagerly to be Slaves themselves, to hold their Goods, their Lives, and all that they value, at the Will of another? Is it not rather natural, that they should mean to raise their own Power, by complimenting a Prince with your Oppression? Or can you imagine, that they think it really a part of Religion, that all Mankind but a few Sovereigns were sent into the World by a good God, only to be the Sport of Tyrants? No; you may be assur'd that such Doctrines, so foreign to pure Religion, and no way serviceable to a Queen, whose Goodness makes her universally belov'd by all her Subjects except these men, were never preach'd but to serve some base purposes. Nor can they ever be strongly inculcated, without tempting a Prince to Arbitrary Government, and alarming the People with Jealousys mischievous to the publick Peace: They are Doctrines of a Popish Brood, hatch'd but in the last Age; and yet they have already ruin'd two Kings of *England*, and in *France* have destroy'd a noble and antient Constitution, and reduc'd a free People to Slavery. That they may not have the same Consequence among you, depends not only upon the Security you have by her Majesty's great Goodness, but likewise upon your own Vigilance against deceitful Insinuations and unjust Impressions.

It has been seen in less than a Century, that the Liberty of almost all the States of *Europe*

rope have been betray'd and subverted; in *France, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, &c.* So that of all the antient Free Gothick Governments, yours only remains, the Envy and Mark of a multitude of *Enemys*. They alarm you from a false Quarter, with a Cry of Danger to the Church, that they may undermine the State unobserv'd; or like Thieves attempt to set fire to a Town, only that they may have an opportunity of Plunder. But it behoves you to be watchful for your Country, and for your Posterity, of whose Well-being Nature has made you Guardians: and this as a grateful Acknowledgment to the Memory of your brave Ancestors, who at a vast Expence of Blood and Treasure transmitted to you your Constitution inviolate. You should beware of those who have been diligent to divide and enflame you, at a Juncture so convenient to the Circumstances and Designs of *France*; and to sow causes of Distrust amongst you, both against the Parliament and Ministry, at a time when your *Enemys* could have no other hopes, but those of preventing to you a lasting Establishment of Peace and Liberty. Which that you may obtain speedily, and enjoy long, is the sincere Prayer of,

Your Disinterested and

Faithful Friend,

A. B.

