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1641

### A Declaration of the Lords and Commons in Parliament: With the Additionall Reasons, Last Presented to His Maiestie. Sabbathi 12. Marij, 1641. ... Whereunto Is Annexed His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the 9. of March, 1641. When They Presented the Declaration of Both Houses of Parliament at New-Market

England and Wales. Parliament (1642)

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A  
DECLARATION  
OF THE  
Lords and Commons  
IN  
PARLIAMENT:

With the Additionall Reasons, last  
presented to His MAJESTIE.

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*Sabbathi 12. Martij, 1641.*

Ordered by the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled, That the Declaration, with the Additionall Reasons last presented to His Majesty, shall be forthwith Printed and published.

*John Browne, Cleric. Parl:  
H. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Come*

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Whereunto is annexed His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the 9. of March, 1641. when they presented the Declaration of both Houses of Parliament at *New-market.*

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LONDON,  
Printed for *John Wright and I. Franke, 1641.*

## The Declaration.

*May it please your Majestie,*

**A**lthough the Expressions in your Majesties Message of the second of this instant March, do give just cause of sorrow to us your faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament, yet it is not without some mixture of confidence and hope, considering they proceeded from the mis apprehension of our Actions and Intentions, which having no ground of Truth or Reality, may by your Majesties Justice and Wisedome be removed when your Majestie shall be fully informed, that those feares and jealousies of ours, which your Maje<sup>ty</sup> is thinks to be causelesse, & without any just ground, do necessarily and clearly arise from those dangers and dilempers, into which the mischievous and evill Counsells about you have brought this Kingdome; And that those other feares and jealousies by which your favour, your Royall Presence, and confidence have beene withdrawn from your Parliament, have no foundation or subsistence in any action, intention, or miscarriage of ours, but are meerely grounded upon the falshood and malice of those for who the supporting and fomenting their own wicked designs, against the Religion and Peace of the Kingdome, doe seeke to deprive your Majestie of the Strength and Affection of your People, them of your Grace and Protection, and thereby to subje& both your Royall Person, and the whole Kingdome to ruine and destruction.

To satisfie your Majesties judgement and Conscience in both these points, we desire to make a cleare and free Declaration of the causes of our feares and jealousies, which we offer to your Majestie, in these particulars:

1 That the designe of altering Religion in this, and in your other Kingdomes, hath beene potently carried on by those in greatest Authority about you for divers yeares together, the Queenes Agent at Rome, & the Popes Agent or Nuncio here, are not onely evidences of this designe, but have beene great Actors in it.

2 That the War with Scotland was procured to make way for this intent, and chiefly invited and fomented by the Papists, & others popishly affected, whereof we have many evidences, especially their free and generall contribution to it.

3 That the Rebellion in Ireland was framed & contrived here in England, and that the English Papists should have risen about the same time, we have severall testimonies, and advertisements from Ireland; and that it is a common speech amongst the Rebels, wherewith concurre other Evidences and observations of the suspitions, meetings, and consultations, the tumultary and seditious carriage of those of that Religion in divers parts of this Kingdome, about the time of the breaking out of the Irish Re-

Rebellion. The deposition of O Connelly, the information of Mr. Cole Minister, the Letter of Trefram Whitcombe, the deposition of Thomas Crant, and many others which we may produce, doe all agree in this. The publike Declaration of the Lords, Gentlemen and others of the Pale, that they would joyne with the Rebels, whom they call the Irish Army, or any other, to recover unto His Majestie His Royall Prerogative wrested from him by the Puritan faction in the Houses of Parliament in England, and to maintaine the same against all others, as also to maintaine Episcopall jurisdiction, and the lawfulness thereof; these two being the Quarrels, upon which His Majesties late Army in the North should have bene incensed against us.

The great cause wee have to doubt that that late designe stiled, The Queenes pious intention, was for the alteration of Religion in this Kingdome; for successe whereof, the Popes Nuncio, the Count Rosetti injoynd Fasting and Praying to bee observed every weeke by the English Papists, which appeared to us by one of the originall Letters, directed by him to a Priest in Lancashire.

The boldnesse of the Irish Rebels, in affirming they doe nothing, but by Authority from the King; That they call themselves the Queenes Army: That the prey or booty which they take from the English, they marke with the Queenes marke: That their purpose was to come to England, after they had done in Ireland, and sundry other things of this kind, proved by O Connelly, and divers others, especially in the fore-mentioned Letter from Trefram Whitecombe, the Major of Kinsale, to his Brother Benjamin Whitecombe, wherein there is passage, that many other strange speeches they utter, about Religion, and our Court of England, which he dares not commit to paper.

The manifold attempts to provoke your Majesties late Armie, and the Army of the Scots, and to raise a faction in the City of London, and other parts of the Kingdome: That those who have bene Actors in those businesses, have had their dependance, their countenance, and encouragement from the Court; Witnesse the Treason whereof Master Iarmyn and others stand accused, who was transported beyond Sea by Warrant, under our Majesties Hand, after your Majesty had given assurance to your Parliament, that your Majesty had laid a strict command upon all your Servants, that none of them should depart from Court: And that dangerous Petition, delivered to Captaine Legg by your Majesties owne hand, accompanied with a direction, signed with C. R.

The false and scandalous accusation against the Lord Kymbolton, & the five Members of the House of Commons tendered to the Parliament by your Majesties owne Command, endeavoured to be justified in the City, by your owne presence and perswasion, and to be put in execution upon their persons by your Majesties demand of them in the house of Commons in so terrible and violent a manner, as farre exceeded all former breaches of Priviledges of Parliament, acted by your Majesty, or any of your Predecessors: And whatsoever your owne intentions were, divers bloody

and desperate persons which attended your Majesty, discovered their affections and resolutions to have Massacred and destroyed the Members of that House, if the absence of those persons accused had not, by Gods providence, stopt the giving of that word which they expected, for the setting them upon that barbarous and bloody act: The lifting of so many Officers, Souldiers, and others, putting them into pay, and under command of Colonells, feasting and caressing them in unusuall manner, at White-hall, thereby maintaining them in the violent assaults, and other injuries which they offered to divers of your Subjects, comming that way in a lawfull and peaceable manner: the carrying them out of Towne after which they were told by the Lord Digby, that the King removed on purpose, that they might not be trampled in the dirt: And keeping them so long in pay, endeavouring to engage the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court, in the same course: The plotting and designing of a perpetuall Guard about your Majestie: The labouring to infuse into your Majesties Subjects an evill opinion of the Parliament thorow the whole Kingdome, and other Symptomes of a disposition of raising Armes & dividing your people by a Civill Warre; in which combustion, Ireland must needs be lost, and this Kingdome miserably wasted and consumed, if not wholly ruined and destroyed.

That after a Vote had passed in the house of Commons, declaring that the Lord Digby had appeared in a warlike manner at Kingston upon Thames, to the terror and fright of your Majesties good Subjects, and disturbance of the publike peace of the Kingdome: & that therefore the Lords should be moved to require his attendance, he should, nevertheless, be of that credit with your Majesty, as to be sent away by your own Warrant to Sir John Pennington, to Land him beyond the Sea; from whence he vented his owne Trayterous conceptions, that your Majesty should declare your selfe, & retire to a place of strength in this Kingdome, as if your Majestie could not be safe among your people: And withall tooke that transcendent boldnesse to write to the Queen, offering to entertaine correspondency with her Majestie by Cyphers, intimating some service which he might doe in those Parts; for which, he desired your Majesties instructions, whereby in probability, he intended the procuring of some forraigne force to strengthen your Majesty, in that condition into which he would have brought you: Which false and malicious counsell and advice, we have great cause to doubt, made too deep an Impression in your Majesty, considering the course you are pleased to take, of absenting your selfe from your Parliament: and carrying the Prince with you, which seemes to expresse a purpose in your Majesty, to keepe your selfe in a readinesse for the acting of it.

The manifold advertisements which we have had from Rome, Venice, Paris, and other parts, that they still expect that your Majesty has some great designe in hand, for the altering of Religion, the breaking the neck of your Parliament: That you will yet finde meanes to compasse that designe, that the Popes Nuncio hath solicited the Kings of France and Spain

Spain to lend your Maestie foure thousand men apiece to helpe to maintaine your Royaltie against the Parliament : And this forragin force as it is the most pernicious and malignant designe of all the rest, so we hope it is and shall alwayes bee farthest from your Maesties thoughts, because no man can beleve you will give up your people and Kingdome to bee spoyled by strangers, if you did not likewise intend to change both your owne profession in Religion, and the publicke profession of the Kingdom, that so you might still be more assured of those forraigne States of the Popish Religion, for your future support and defence.

These are some of the grounds of our feares and Iealoufies which made us so earnestly to implore your royall Authority & protection for our defence and security, in all the wayes of humility and submission, which being denied by your Majesty seduced by evill Counsell, we do with sorrow for the great inavoidable misery and danger, which thereby is like to fall upon your own person, and your kingdomes, apply our selves to the use of that power for the security and defence of both, which by the fundamentall Lawes and constitutions of this Kingdome resides in us, yet still resolving to keepe our selves within the bounds of faithfulnessse and allegiance to your sacred person and your Crown, so as to the second sort of jealousies and fears of us, exprest by your Majesty, we shall give a shorter, but as true, and as faithfull an answer.

Whereas your Majesty is pleased to say that for your residence near the Parliament, you wish it might be so safe, and honourable, that you had no cause to absent your selfe from Whitehall ; This we take as the greatest breach of Priviledge of Parliament that can be offered ; As the heaviest misery to your selfe, and imputation upon us that can be imagined, and the most mischievous effect of evil Counsels, it roots up the strongest foundation of the safety & honour which your Crown affords ; it seems as much as may be, to cast upon the Parliament, such a charge, as is inconsistent with the nature of that great Counsell, being the body whereof your Majesty is the head ; it strikes at the very being, both of King, and Parliament ; depriving your Majesty in your own apprehension of their fidelity, & them of your protection, which are the mutuall bands and supports of government, and Subjection.

We have according to your Maesties desire, laid our hands upon our hearts, we have askt our selves in the strictest examination of our Consciences ; we have searcht our affections, our thoughts, considered our actions, and we find none that can give your Majesty any just occasion to absent your selfe from Whitehall, and the Parliament, but that you may with more honour and safety, continue there then in any other place.

Your Majesty layes a generall tax upon us ; if you will be graciously pleased to let us know the particulars, we shall give a cleer and satisfactory Answer : But what hope can we have of ever giving your Majesty satisfaction, when those particulars which you have been made beleve were true, yet being produced and made known to us, appeared to be false ; and your Majesty notwithstanding, will neither punish, nor produce  
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the Authors, but go on to contract new jealousies and fears upon generall and uncertain grounds, affording us no means or possibility of particular Answer, to the clearing of our selves; For proof whereof, we beseech your Majesty to consider these Instances.

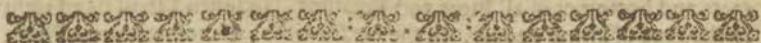
The speeches alleged to be spoken in a meeting of divers Members of both Houses at Kensington, concerning a purpose of restraining the Queen and Prince, which after it was denied and disavowed, yet your Majesty refused to name the Authors, though humbly desired by both Houses.

The report of Articles framed against the Queens Majesty, given out by some of neer relation to the Court; but when it was publickly, and constantly disclaimed, the credit seemed to be withdrawn from it; but the Authors being kept safe, will alwayes be ready for exploits of the same kind, wherewith your Majesty and the Queen, will be often troubled, if this course be taken to cherish and secure them in such wicked and malicious slanders.

The heaue charge and accusation of the Lord Kimbolton, and the five Members of the House of Commons, who refused no tryall or examination, which might stand with the privilege of Parliament; yet no Authors, no witnesses produced, against who they may have reparation for the great injury and infamy cast upon them; notwithstanding three severall Petitions of both Houses, and the authority of two Acts of Parliament, vouched in the last of those Petitions.

We beseech your Majesty to consider in what State you are, how easie, and faire a way you have to happinesse, hono<sup>r</sup>, greatnesse, plenty, and security, if you will joyne with the Parliament and your faithfull Subjects in the defence of the Religion, and publick good of the Kingdome: This is all we expect from you, and for this we shall returne to you, our lives, fortunes, and uttermost endeavours to support your Majesty, your just Sovereignty & power over us, but it is not words that can secure us in these our humble desires; we cannot but too well, and sorrowfully remember what gracious Messages we had from you this Summer, when with your privity, the bringing up the Army was in agitation; we cannot but with the like affections recal to our minds how not two dayes before, you gave directions for the above mentioned accusation, and your own comming to the Commons House, that House received from your Majesty a gracious Message, that you would alwayes have a care of their Priviledges, as of your own prerogative, of the safety of their persons, as of your own children: That which we expect, which will give us assurance, that you have no thought, but of peace and justice to your People; must be some reall effect of your goodnesse to them in granting those things, which the present necessity of the Kingdome, do enforce us to desire: And in the first place, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to put from you, those wicked and mischievous Counsellors, which have caused all these dangers and distractions, and to continue your own Residence, and the Princes neere London, and the Parliament, which we hope will be a happy beginning of contentment, & confidence betwixt your Majesty and your people,

& be followed with many succeeding blessings of Honour & Greatnesse to your Majesty, and of security and prosperity to them.



### The Additionall Reasons.

**T**He Lords and Commons have commanded us to present unto your Majesty this further Addition to their former Declaration.

That your Majesties returne and continuance near the Parliament, is a matter in their apprehension of so great necessity & importance towards the preservation of your Royal person and your Kingdomes, that they cannot thinke they have discharged their duties in the single expression of their desire, unlessse they adde some further Reasons to back it with.

I. Your Majesties absence will cause men to beleve, that it is out of designe to discourage the undertakers, and hinder the other provisions for raising money for defence of Ireland.

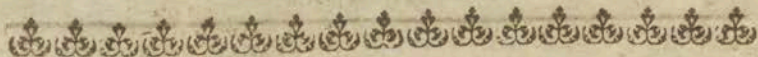
II. It will very much hurt the Rebels there, and disaffected persons in this Kingdome, as being an evindence, and effect of the joyne and division betwixt your Majesty, and your people.

III. That it will much weaken and withdraw the affection of the subject from your Majesty, without which a Prince is deprived of his chiefest strength and lustre, and left naked to the greatest dangers and miseries, that can be imagined.

III. That it will incite and encourage the Enemies of our Religion, and the State in forraigne parts, to the attempting & acting of their evill designs & intentions towards us.

P. That it causeth great interruption in the proceedings of Parliament.

These considerations threaten so great danger to your Majesties Person, & to all your Dominions, that as your Majestyes great Counsell, they hold it necessary to represent to You, this their faithfull Advise, that so whatsoever followeth, they may be excused before God & Man.



His Majesties Speech to the Committee, the ninth of March, 1641. when they presented the Declaration of both Houses of Parliament at

New-Market.

**I**Am confident that you expect not I should give you a speedy Answer to this strange and unexpected Declaration. And I am forry (in the distraction of this Kingdome) you should thinke this way of addressse to be more convenient, then that proposed by my message of the 20 of January last to both Houses.

As concerning the grounds of your Feares and Jealousies, I will take  
time



time to answer particularly, and doubt not but I shall do it to the satisfaction of all the world. God, in his good time, will I hope, discover the secrets and bottomes of all Plots and Treasons; and then I shall stand right in the eyes of all my people. In the meane time, I must tell you, That I rather expected a Vindication for the imputation laid on me in Master Pym's Speech, than that any more generall Rumours and Discourses should get credit with you.

For my feares and doubts, I did not think they should have bin thought so groundlesse or triviall, while so many seditious Pamphlets & Sermons are looked upon, and so great Tumults are remembred, unpunished, uninquired into: I still confesse my feares, and call God to witnesse, That they are greater for the true Protestant Profession, My people and lawes, than for My own Rights or Safety: though I must tell you, I conceive that none of these are free from danger.

What would you have? Have I violated your Lawes? Have I denied to passe any one Bill for the ease and security of my Subjects? I do not ask you what you have done for Me.

Have any of my People been transported with Feares and Apprehensions? I have offered as free and generall a Pardon, as your selves can devise. All this considered, There is a judgement from Heaven upon this Nation, if these distractions continue.

God so deale with me and mine, as all my thoughts and intentions are upright for the maintenance of the true Protestant Profession, and for the Observation & preservation of the Lawes of this Land: And, I hope, God will blesse and assist those Lawes for My preservation.

As for the Additionall Declaration, you are to expect an Answer to it, when you shall receive the Answer to the Declaration it selfe.

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FINIS.