

HISTORICAL REPRINTS.—VIII.

The  
Rye House Plot:

BEING

His Majesty's Declaration to all  
His Loving Subjects con-  
cerning the Treasonable  
Conspiracy lately  
discovered.

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ORDERED TO BE PRINTED BY HIS  
MAJESTY.

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# HISTORICAL REPRINTS,



## The Rye House Plot.

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## A TRUE ACCOUNT

OF THE

### *Horrid Conspiracy against the King and the Government.*

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**T**HE KING has thought fit to lay open, and to declare to the World, An Exact Account of the late Accuried Conspiracy, which was actually form'd, and carried on in *England*, and set on foot in *Scotland*, against His own, and his only and dearest Brothers Life, and against the Peaceable and Flourishing Government of His Majesties Kingdoms; as far forth, as hitherto the Particulars of it have come to His knowledge, by the Voluntary Confessions, or undeniable Convictions of divers of the Principal Conspirators.

By this faithfully representing the plain Matter of Fact, though perhaps all the Groundless Suggestions, and Malicious Insinuations of Factious Men, will not be wholly put to silence; it being their old, and con-

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### *A True Account*

stant Artifice, to support, and encourage their Party, by Impudent Slanders and Falshoods, against the clearest Light, and most evident Proof: Yet however His Majesty will have the Satisfaction hereby to confirm the Loyalty, and good Affections of all His loving Subjects at Home, and to establish Abroad the Reputation, and Honour of His Royal Justice.

And moreover (which His Majesty most of all regards) this Publick, and Lasting Testimony will be given of His sincere Thankfulness to Almighty God, for that Miraculous Deliverance from a Danger, which came so near His Sacred Person, and was so far spread in the Ruine, it threaten'd to all His people.

It is well known, what mischievous Arts of late Years have been used, and what Treasonable Courses taken, to withdraw these Nations from their bounden Duty and Allegiance, and to expose His Majesties most Just, and Merciful Government to Calumny and Contempt: The Rebellious Design having been apparently carried on by all sorts of Malecontents; whom either their Crimes, or Wants, their furious Zeal, or unbounded Ambition, inclined to wish for a Disturbance of the Peace, and Prosperity, which His Majesties Dominions have so long enjoy'd, to the Envy of all His Neighbours.

To this wicked purpose, many the very same fatal Methods and specious Pretences, which, in the Days of His Majesties Glorious Father, had involved these Kingdoms in Confusion and Blood, were once again revived, and by many the very same Persons; Men of

crafty, restless, and implacable Spirits ; impenitent after the most Gracious Pardons ; whom long Experience had made skilful in seducing weak, and unstable Minds, by counterfeiting the plausible Names of things in themselves most excellent, but most dangerous when abused ; such as Liberty, Property, Conscience, and Religion.

By these wretched Instruments, was this most gentle, and benign Government again reproached with Tyranny, and Arbitrary Power : The Church of *England* was once more Traduced, as Popishly affected : The most able Officers, and faithfullest Servants of the Crown again Reviled, under the odious Title of Evil Counsellours.

In the mean time Sedition and Schism were every where promoted ; unreasonable Fears suggested ; vain Suspicions of future Dangers augmented to destroy the present Tranquillity ; desperate Speeches, infamous Libels, Traiterous Books swarm'd in all places ; and under colour of the only True Protestant, the worst of all Unchristian Principles were put in practise ; all the old Republican, and Antimonarchical Doctrines, whose Effects had formerly prov'd so dismal, were now again as confidently own'd, and asserted, as ever they had been during the hottest Rage of the late unhappy Troubles.

From these Preparations to a new Rebellion, the Party began by degrees to proceed to Action. Distinctions of Sides were made : Names, and Tokens of Separation were given : Illegal Conventicles were main-

tained, in defiance of the Laws of God, and Man : Tumultuous Feasts, and Factious Clubs were set up in City, and Country : Close, and Seditious Meetings haunted : Frequent Cabals appointed, and by Men of high degree with the lowest : Great Stores of Arms provided by private Persons : Insolent Progresses made through divers Countries ; thereby to glory in their Numbers, and to carry far and near the Terror of their Power, and even to Muster their Party ready for some sudden Blow, or general Insurrection.

All these, and many more such Personal Indignities, and Publick Assaults on the Government, His Majesty long endured with the same Mildness, and Clemency, wherewith he had already forgiven the highest Crimes against himself ; His Royal Goodness still patiently expecting, and wishing, that in time the most obstinate of his misguided Subjects would see their Errour, and return at length to a sense of the Duty, they owe him by all the strongest Bands of Nature and Laws, Religion and Gratitude, that can possibly oblige Subjects towards a Sovereign.

But when His Majesty was abundantly convinc'd that all those dark Consultations, and open Tumults of unruly Men, were but so many infallible Signs, and Forerunners of Rebellion, or some extraordinary Commotions ; Then at last, in a tender respect to his Peoples Safety, more than to his own, was His Majesty constrain'd to awaken his Authority, to try what good Effect the Vigour of his Laws would have on those Offenders, with whom all his repeated Mercy and Indulgence had so little prevail'd.

Yet such was then His Majesties hard Fortune, so firmly combined were the Disaffected, especially by their Prevalent Interest in packing the Juries of *London* and *Middlesex*, that whilst His Majesty carefully endeavour'd to distribute Impartial Justice to all his Subjects, he could not obtain the same Right Himself; his Enemies still becoming more numerous, and united in those very places, where their desperate Enterprises against the Government, were likely to be most sudden and pernicious.

Amongst divers other infamous Examples of this Nature, was that of *Colledge* the Joyner. For though the Criminal was so mean a Man, and no other ways considerable, but for his audacious Forwardness in affronting the Government; yet His Majesty, with all His Royal Authority, could hardly prevail to have him brought to a Fair and Legal Tryal. Nor had His Majesty been able at last to procure so much Justice to be done had not the Process been removed into another County, where (the Rulers of the Faction being less powerful,) that new and damnable Opinion and Practice of the Lawfulness of Equivocating and even of Perjury for the *Good Old Cause*, had not prevailed over the old and honest English Principles of Truth and Honour.

However though in the end His Majesties Justice got the better at that time, yet it was defeated in a greater and more important Instance, that of the late Earl of *Shaftesbury*; who had been long and reasonably suspected, and in the issue was manifestly discovered to be the chief Author, and supreme Manager of all these

Traiterous Contrivances against his Majesties Crowns and Life.

The said Earl His Majesty had formerly pardon'd, enrich'd, enobled, and advanc'd to one of the highest Stations in the Kingdom; by a long Succession of manifold Bounties, endeavouring to render his Abilities, and Experience in Business, serviceable to his King, and beneficial to his Country.

Yet so treacherous and undermining was his Genius; so unmeasurable his Ambition; so impatient of quiet, and moderate Courses; so much fitter he was to be the Instrument of a Tyrant, than the Servant of a Just and Good Prince; that after many heinous Infidelities and Offences committed by him, and forgiven by his Majesty, he was at length necessitated to discharge him his Service; yet so as to leave him one of the most considerable Peers in the Kingdom for Title and Estate.

But his aspiring and revengeful Spirit could not brook so gentle a disgrace. Wherefore having deservedly been dismiss'd the Court, he presently attempted to set the Country directly against it. Immediately he profess'd himself the most zealous true Protestant, and the greatest Patriot; Thereby slyly insinuating his designs into the Heads of all Sects and Divisions in Church and State: To them betraying some, vilifying others; maliciously interpreting all His Majesties Counsels; Making those very Consultations, and resolutions of State, whereof he had been the chief Adviser, when he was in Power, to be the principal Ob-

jections against the Government, when he was displaced.

Thus he and his party went boldly on to disturb the Publick Quiet, and to affront His Majesties Authority with the highest Insolence: In Words and Writings defaming it, as Arbitrary and Tyrannical, whilst in Deeds he insulted over it, as believing it to be weak, and resolving to make it despicable. And all this with a secure confidence not only of Indemnity, but Success; Knowing himself to be under the protection of Juries of his own appointment or approbation: And therefore presuming he was far out of the reach of His Majesties just Indignation.

And so for a time it unhappily proved. For being legally indicted of Crimes of the highest Nature; though the Evidence against him was clear, and positive; some of the Witnesses being the very same Men, whose Testimony had been approv'd of, in the prosecution of *Oats's* Plot; And the very Original draught of a treasonable Association having been actually found in his Custody; yet he could not be brought to a Lawful Trial by his Peers, the Indictment being stifled by a shameful *Ignoramus*; and that accompanied with so much Insolence, that the very Ministers of His Majesties Justice were in much more danger than the Criminal, and hardly escap'd the rude Assaults of his Confederates and Party.

However, from so great a Violation of Common Right, and of the Royal Dignity, His Majesty gain'd this very considerable Advantage, That thenceforth he

plainly perceived the main Strength of all his Enemies Arrogance lay in their Extravagant Power to pack the City-Juries. For what Treason might not the Earl of *Shaftesbury* securely Project, or *Ferguson* Write, or an Association Act against the Government, whilst *God-enough*, and a settled Club, was at hand with their Corrupt Pannels, to indemnifie, and if need were, to second and applaud their most Villanous Practises?

Wherefore His Majesty foreseeing how destructive, in time, the Effects of so great and growing a Mischief would be, resolv'd at length, after a many Intolerable Provocations, to strike at that which he had now found to be the very Root of the Faction.

This His Majesty, and all wise and good Men perceiv'd, could be no other ways done, than first by reducing the Elections of the Sheriffs of *London* to their Antient Order and Rules, that of late were become only a Business of Clamour and Violence: And then to make Inquiry into the Validity of the City-Charter itself; which an ill Party of Men had abused to the Danger, and would have done it to the Destruction of the Government, had they been suffer'd to go on never so little farther uncontroll'd.

In both these most just and necessary Undertakings, the Righteousness of His Majesties Cause met with an answerable Success. First, notwithstanding all the Tumultuous Riots the Factionous Party committed, to disturb the peaceable Issue of that Affair; yet the undoubted Right of the Lord Mayor's Nominating the eldest Sheriff, was restored and established: And so the

Administration of Justice once more put in a way of being cleared from Partiality and Corruption. And then a due Judgment was obtain'd, by an equal Process of Law, against the Charter itself, and its Franchises declared forfeited to His Majesty.

But though this happy Event of His Majesties Controversie with the disaffected part of the City of London, was in all Humane probability, the only effectual Course to provide for the future Peace, and Stability of the Government; yet it had like to have proved a present Occasion of its utter Ruine.

For when so many guilty Persons found, that the great Point of the Sheriffs was resettled on its Antient Bottom, and the City-Charter itself in hazard of being speedily vacated; so that now there would be no farther evasion for them, by any pretence of Law, to escape unpunish'd: Then they concluded it was high time to bring their Devilish Purposes to a quicker issue, and once for all to strike boldly at the Heart of the KING and Kingdom.

Particularly the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, being conscious to himself of the blackness of his Crimes, and of the Iniquity of the Verdict, by which he had for that time escaped; and finding he was now within the compass of the Justice he had so lately frustrated and condemn'd, thenceforth gave over all his quieter and more plausible Arts of Sedition, whereby he proudly bragg'd he should, in time, as his Expression was, *Leisurely walk his Majesty out of his Dominions*; and on a sudden betook himself to more precipitate Enterprizes: Alarming his

Companions with a prospect of their common danger; thence inflaming some to Insurrections, others to Assassinations; supposing now there was no way left for him, or them, to justify their former Misdemeanors and Treasons, but by attempting and succeeding in greater Mischicks.

This was found by evident Proof to have been the principal rise and occasion of ripening the Horrid Conspiracy in the Kingdom of *England*. Nor could there possibly have happen'd a stronger Justification of His Majesties Counsels in attempting to rectifie the City-Juries and Elections; since it is apparent his principal Enemies laid so much stress on the unjust Power they had therein usurp'd, that, being once fairly driven from that Strength, they immediately resolv'd, nothing less than a barefac'd and avow'd Rebellion could repair the Loss their Party sustain'd by so great a Blow.

As for His Majesties Kingdom of *Scotland*, it is notorious there has been long shelter'd in it a desperate Faction of furious Zealots, that under the old Professions of the Cause of Christ, and a purer way of Gospel-Worship, has grown up by degrees to a Violation at last, not only of all the Rules and Institutions of true Religion, but of common Humanity. For does not the whole Christian World at this day behold with Horror, that the most Villanous Tenets of the fiercest Scottish Covenanters, and even of their Remonstrators, have been out-done by their Successors and Disciples in the Field-Meetings, and Armed Conventicles? Have they not thence proceeded to all the

Execrable Rage of Rapine and Violence? In so much that some of them have lived and died glorying in the most barbarous Murders, and basest Cruelties; refusing obstinately with their last Breath, so much as to pray for His Majesty, or to say, *God save the King*; though by an unexampled Mercy, they had their Pardons assur'd to them at the very place and moment of their Execution, upon that single Condition.

And besides the remains of those Bloody Enthusiasts, whose Principles are not yet entirely extinguish'd, though their force has been twice vanquish'd in open Field, by Gods Providence prospering His Majesties Arms; It is certain also the Peace of that Kingdom has of late been much indanger'd by other great Numbers of Factious and Seditious Spirits, who, though at first they would not venture to incourage publickly the others declared Treasons, yet stuck not secretly to favour and foment their Cause, and as the event infallibly proves, would soon have Own'd and Headed their Fury, had it prosper'd.

Wherefore the wise care of former Sessions of Parliament there, having sufficiently provided by a due severity of Good Laws, against the dreadful Consequences of continuing the Field-Meetings; for the farther securing the Reformed Religion, and the Ancient Rights of the Crown and the Royal Family in that Kingdom, it was judg'd adviseable, by the Wisdom of His Majesties great Council, the last Session of Parliament, to appoint and Authorise a Solemn Test to be taken by all Persons in place of publick Trust, or Power.

In that Session the Test was soon pass'd into an Act of State, without any considerable opposition: Though there were not wanting some turbulent Men in the Assembly, who took that occasion of shewing, how ill they were affected to the establish'd Government of their Country; Which they could have no other inducement to be, but either a desire of Commotions, by reason of the desperate State of their own ill-spent Fortunes, or Envy at the better Condition of Honester Men, or some inveterate Contagion of Treason, derived down to them from the last unhappy Age of Confusions.

Of that unquiet and seditious Party, the chief and declared Head was the late Earl of *Argyle*, who during the very sitting of the Parliament, had, by many indirect ways, attempted to hinder His Majesties Service; the said Earl, and the then President of the Session, and their Complices taking their opportunity, in word-ing the Test, to add thereto all the very same Clauses, that have since given any Colour of scruple to themselves. But when all his crafts for obstructing the Bill were defeated by the far greater Number of well disposed Members, the Loyal Voters for it being at least Ten to one of the disaffected; then no sooner was the Parliament adjourn'd, but the said Earl of *Argyle*, first at *Edenburgh*, next in traversing several Shires, did make it his Chief Business to insinuate every where, into the minds of the Clergy and Laity, the most malicious prejudices imaginable against the whole Tenour of the Test.

And afterwards on his return to *Edenburgh* he often presumptuously declared, he would either not take it at all, or take it only with a reserve of his own explanation; which he put in Writing and dispers'd: the contrivance of it being such, as dissolves all the Obligations of the Oath, and makes his own present Fancy and private Opinion, the only Standard, whereby he meant to be guided in all the publick Duties of his Loyalty and Allegiance.

At length His Majesties High Commissioner the *Duke*, and the Privy Council of that Kingdom, having been well inform'd of the said Earls seditious Carriage in City and Country, and being fully confirm'd in their Judgments and Consciences of his Trayterous Purposes, in that fallacious and equivocating Paraphrase on the Test, which he own'd in their presence, perverting thereby the sound sense, and eluding the force of His Majesties Laws, in order to set the Subjects loose from their Obedience, and to perpetuate Schism in the Church, and Faction in the State: Upon these Grounds, he was most deservedly Prosecuted by His Majesties Advocate, before the Sovereign Justice-Court, according to the known Laws of his Country; and after a full and equal Tryal, he was found guilty of Treason, by the Learned Judges, and a Jury not only of his Peers, but also many of them his own nearest Relations.

Soon after Judgment given, albeit the King was far from any thought of taking away his Life, and that no farther prejudice was design'd against him, but the

forfeiture of some Jurisdictions and Superiorities, which he and his Predecessors had surreptitiously acquired, and most tyrannically exercis'd; besides the disposal of part of his Estate to pay his just Creditors, and some few moderate Donatives to those, whom he and his Father had formerly ruin'd for their Fidelity to His Majesty, the Surplusage being intended entirely to return, and descend to his Family; yet the said Earl abusing the great Freedom indulg'd him in Prison, (which he enjoy'd as largely after his Condemnation, as before) fled from His Majesties Mercy, the knowledge of his own Guilt not suffering him to venture on that Clemency, whereof he had before participated so plentifully, when he was under the like sentence of Condemnation.

The King however, notwithstanding this new Provocation, still retain'd the same benign thoughts of favouring his Wife and Children. And before it was known that the said Earl had more Debt on his Estate than the full value of it amounted to, (which really was his Case) His Majesty was graciously pleas'd, in one Royal Largess, to give thrice more of the Inheritance to his Posterity, than their Father could lawfully have done, had it never been forfeited.

But how ill he deserved, or requited so many Acts of Grace and Bounty, will appear by the sequel of his Behaviour after his Escape. For instead of doing what his Complices and Dependants gave out he intended, that he would humbly cast himself at His Majesties Feet, and implore his Pardon, which he, of all Men

living, had no reason to think desperate, he is no where to be found, but associating with His Majesties implacable Enemies in the Head of new Machinations of Treason, employs his Liberty abroad in maintaining Traiterous Correspondences at Home, with restless Malice exciting the wicked Conspirators of both Kingdoms to a fatal Union against the Life, Government and Family of his Liege Sovereign and Benefactor.

And all this is to be proven upon him by Arguments as clear as the Sun, by the Credit of his own Authentick Letters, and by the plain Depositions of his principal Messengers and Agents in the whole Villany.

By this brief Recollection of the troubled State of Affairs, and the Tumultuous Temper of ill Mens Minds, in His Majesties Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, about the time when this treasonable Conspiracy was in agitation, the impartial World may perceive, from what destructive seeds of Sedition, private Passions and Animosities, under the disguise of Religion and the publick Interest, so Monstrous a Birth was produced.

In the wonderful Discovery of which detestable Confederacy, and in the happy Prevention of its dire Effects, as all who have heard of it, must acknowledge that a signal care of Gods Providence has appear'd, for His Majesties and these Nations Preservation: So His Majesty gives the Sacred Word and Protestation of a King, that nothing has been done, on his part,

but what was agreeable to that Royal Benignity and Natural Candor of his whole Life, whereof all the World, even his Enemies, have had such undoubted Experience.

The members of the Confederacy were the Earl of Shaftsbury, the Duke of Monmouth, Lord Gray of Wark, the Earl of Essex, Mr John Hamden the Younger, Colonel Romzey, Richard Rumbald and his brother; in Scotland, Sir Patrick Hume of Polwart, the Lord Melvil, Hugh Scot and others.

Many propositions were made as to when the Royal Brothers should be attacked.

But all these other propositions, as subject to far more Casualties and Hazards, soon gave place to that of the Rye in *Hants-shire*: A House then inhabited by the fore-said *Richard Rumbald*; who propos'd that to be the Seat of the Action, offering himself to Command the Party, that was to do the Work. Him therefore, as their most daring Captain, and by reason of a Blemish in one of his Eyes, they were afterwards wont, in Common Discourse, to call *Hannibal*: Often Drinking Healths to *Hannibal and his Boys*; meaning *Rumbald* and his Hellish Crew.

The commodiousness of the Rye for any such desperate Enterprize soon encourag'd them to fix it there: Its lonely and retir'd Situation, and the Inclosures about it being such as would afford all advantages imaginable to the Assailants, and give as great Inconveniences to the Persons attacked.

The place being agreed on, it was first question'd,

whether the stroke should be struck, upon His Majesties going to, or coming from *Newmarket*: But it was thought more expedient to defer it till His Majesties return.

That Point being over, they had several Meetings, to consult of all the Circumstances of the Parricide.

The Number of the Men to be personally engaged were Forty at Least, to that end two or three Lists of Names were drawn up, out of which the choice was to be made, and the Roll was neer completed.

The Arms to be used were Blunderbusses, Muskets, Pistols, Carabines. To get them down thither without suspicion, many ways were thought on. One, to put them up in Chests, and bring them by Land in Carts. Another, to hide them in a Boat, under Coals, or Oysters, or such common Lading, and so to convey them up the River of *Ware*. Another, that every one concern'd should go down privily Arm'd, and so all Travelling in small Parties, scatter'd, and at their leisure, they might easily meet unperceived about the *Rye*; at the time prefixt.

When the Fatal Hour should approach, the attempt was agreed to be made in this manner: Some one or two were to be sent forth on the Road towards *Newmarket*, to discover in which Coach the King came, and what Company attended him; which they well knew was commonly no more than some six of the Guards; and those also were supposed to have their Horses weak, and almost tired by that time they came thither, so near *Hatfield*, one of the usual Stages where

His Majesty was wont to change Coaches and Guards.

Upon warning thus given of the Kings being near at hand, all were to be in readiness within the House and Yards to issue forth in a moment, some on Horseback, some on Foot.

Immediately upon the Coaches coming within the Gates and Hedges about the House, the Conspirators were to divide into several Parties: Some before in the habit of Labourers were to overthrow a Cart in the narrowest passage, so to prevent all possibility of escape: Others were to fight the Guards, *Walcut* chusing that part upon a Punellilio of Honour: Others were to shoot at the Coach-man, Postilion and Horses: Others to aim only at His Majesties Coach, which Party was to be under the particular direction of *Rambald* himself; the Villain declaring before-hand, That upon that occasion he would make use of a very good Blunderbuss, which was in *Wist's* possession, most blasphemously adding, that *Ferguson* should first consecrate it.

It is indeed a thing prodigious to tell, and were it not for the undeniable proofs of it, very difficult to be believ'd, that not only one or two such Furies should rise up in a whole Age, but that so great a Number of Men should, in the same time and place, be found so void of all Humanity, as not only to imagine and contrive so horrid a Fact, but to discourse of it in so many Meetings, so sportfully and merrily as they did, as if the cruellest Tragedy which wicked Men or the Devil ever invented, had been only a matter of common pas-

time and loose raillery. Thus when at one of their Consults *West* invited *Rumsey* to be Godfather to his Child, he answered, *He would, if he might be allow'd to call him Brutus.* And when it was once propos'd to Kill the King and the Duke at the *Play-House*, by blowing up the whole Audience with them, *Ferguson* approved the way, and impudently said, *That then they would Die in their own Calling.* And when some objected against it, *That by this means the Innocent would perish with the Nocent;* another justified it, saying, *What did the Jack-Daw do amongst the Rocks?* And when some propos'd that to give a better colour to what they did, the King and Duke should not be killed, but only seiz'd and brought to Tryal, after that the People had got the better; It was answer'd by *Ferguson*, *That it was never thought Injustice to shoot, or set Traps for Wolves and Tygers.*

The execrable Deed being thus suppos'd by them to be feasible without much Opposition, they then farther consider'd the several ways of their escaping afterwards. Sometimes they thought of retreating towards *Cambridgeshire*, and scattering there; sometimes of retiring into the *Rye-House*, which being guarded with a Moat, and Brick-Walls, they doubted not to defend it against the frighted Country People for some Hours till Night, when they might shift for themselves, and disperse. Another way that *Rumbald* himself propos'd, was to lead them out of the great Road through the Meadows, which were to be gallop'd all along; so that they might with ease come into *London*

by *Hackney-Marsh*, before the News of what was done could possibly get thither. It was concluded at the same time, that divers Lords, and principal Men of their Party, should be invited to an Entertainment that very day in the City, that they might be upon the place to Head the Faction at the first arrival of the News.

But whilst they were thus wholly intent on this barbarous Work, and proceeded securely in its Contrivance, without any the least doubt of a prosperous success; Behold! on a sudden God miraculously disappointed all their Hopes and Designs, by the terrible Conflagration unexpectedly breaking out at *New-market*. In which extraordinary event, there was one most remarkable passage, that is not so generally taken notice of, as for the Glory of God, and the Confusion of His Majesties Enemies it ought to be.

For after that the approaching fury of the Flames had driven the King out of his own Palace, His Majesty at first removed into another Quarter of the Town, remote from the Fire, and as yet free from any annoyance of Smoke and Ashes. There His Majesty finding he might be tolerably well accommodated, had resolv'd to stay, and continue his Recreations as before, till the Day first nam'd for his Journey back to *London*. But His Majesty had no sooner made that resolution, when the Wind, as conducted by an invisible Power from above, presently chang'd about, and blew the Smoke and Cinders directly on his new Lodgings, making them in a moment as untenable as the other. Upon this, His Majesty being put to a

new shift, and not finding the like Conveniency elsewhere, immediately declared he would speedily return to *Whitehal*; as he did: which happening to be several days before the Assassines expected him, or their preparations for the *Rye* were in readiness, it may justly give occasion to all the World to acknowledge what one of the very Conspirators could not but do, *That it was a Providential Fire.*



FINIS.