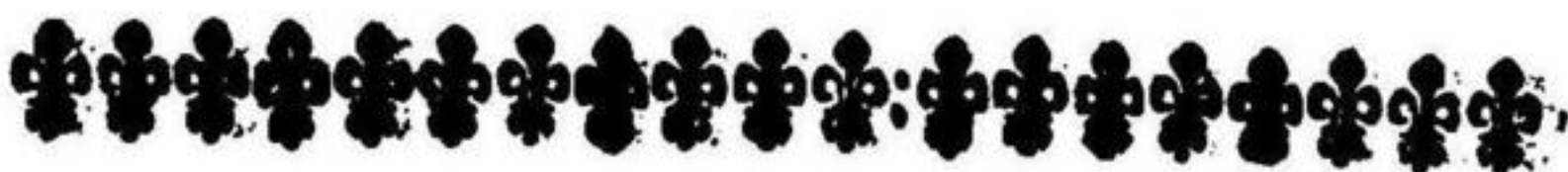




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Sac. domest.



Considerations and Proposals

In Order to the

~~523~~
97

Regulation

OF THE

P R E S S :

TOGETHER WITH

Diverse *Instances* of *Treasonous*, and
Seditious Pamphlets, Proving the
Necessity thereof.

BY

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON, Printed by A. C. June 3^d.
M. DC. LXIII.





TO THE
K I N G S

Most EXCELLENT
MAJESTY.

SIR,



It is not without some *Force* upon my *self*, that I have Resolv'd upon This *Dedication*; for I have no *Ambition* to appear *Pragmatical*, and to become the *Marque* of a *Peevish Faction*: But since my *Duty* will have it Thus, I shall accompt all *Other Interests* as *Nothing* in *Competition* with my *Allegiance*.

The Epistle Dedicatory.

If Your Majesty shall vouchsafe to look so far, and so low, as into the *Enfuing Treatise*, You will find it, Sir, to be *Partly*, a *Deliberative Discourse* about the *Means* of *Regulating* the *Press*; (the matter being at This Instant under *Publique Debate*) and in *Part*, an *Extract* of certain *Treasonous*, and *Seditious Passages*, and *Positions*, which may serve to *Evince* the *Necessity* of That *Regulation*. The *Latter* of which, I do most *Humbly Offer* to Your *Royal Consideration*, not presuming in any Sort, to *Concern Your Majesty* in the *Former*.

In *This Extract*, is presented to your *Majesties view*; *First*, That *Spirit of Hypocrisie*, *Scandal*, *Malice*, *Errour*, and *Illusion*, that *Actuated* the *Late Rebellion*. *Secondly*, A *Manifestation* of the *same Spirit* *Reigning still*, and *working*, not only by the *same Means*, but in very many of the *same Persons*, and to the *same Ends*; That is, There is a *Combination*, and *Design* against Your *Sacred Life*, and *Dignity*, which is carryed on by the *same Arguments*, *Pretences*, *Wayes*, and *Instruments*, that *Ruin'd Your Royal*, and *Blessed Father*.

All

The Epistle Dedicatory.

All which, I think my self Bound, not only in *Generals*, to *Declare*; but more *Particularly*, to *Trace*, and to *Discover* to Your Majesty, as a *Duty* which I owe both to *God*, and to my *Sovereign*.

The *first* part of the *Conspirators Work*, is to *disaffect* the *People* toward Your Majesties *Person* and *Government*; and their next *Business* is to *Encourage*, and *Carry on* those *Seditious Inclinations* into *Action*.

Touching the *Former*; Scarce any one *Regicide* or *Traytor* has been brought to *Publicque Justice*, since Your Majesties *Blessed Return*, whom either the *Pulpit* hath not *Canonized* for a *Saint*, or the *Press* Recommended for a *Patriot*, and *Martyr*. (beside the *Arraignement* of the *Bench*, for the very *Formalityes* of their *Tryals*) What is the *Intent*, or what may be the *Effect* of *Suggesting* to the *People*, that there is no *Justice* to be found, either in Your *Cause*, or in Your *Courts*; (Both which are *Struck at* in the same *Blow*) is submitted humbly to Your *Royal Wisdom*. Nor is the *Faction* less *Industrious* to draw an *Odium* upon Your *Majesties Person*, and to *Perplex*, *Seduce*, and *Exasperate* the *Multitude*,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

in Matters of Religion, and concerning the Government of the Church.

There have been Printed, and Reprinted, since Your Majesties Happy Restoration, not so few as a Hundred Schismatical Pamphlets, against Bishops, Ceremonies, and Common-Prayer: in many of which, Your Majesty is Directly, and in All of them Implicitly, Charg'd with an Inclination to Popery. The Instruments that Menage This Part of the Plot, are Ejected Ministers, Booksellers, and Printers: and it is believed, by men of Judgment, and Experience, in the Trade of the Press, that since the late Act for Uniformity, there have been Printed near Thirty Thousand Copies of Farewel-Sermons (as they call them) in Defiance of the Law. All which, as they are now drawn together into one Binding, (to the Number of betwixt Thirty and Forty) and represented with Figures, do certainly make up one of the most Audacious, and Dangerous Libels, that hath been made Publique under any Government; and they are now Printing it in Dutch too, for the greater Honour of the Scandal. By These Arts, and Practices, the Faction works upon
the

The Epistle Dedicatory.

the *Passions* and *Humours* of the *Common-People*; and when they shall have put *Mischief* into their *Hearts*, their *next Business* is to put *Swords* in their *Hands*, and to Engage them in a direct *Rebellion*: which *Intent* of theirs, together with the *Means* whereby they hope to *Execute* it, I shall humbly lay before Your Majesty in a few words.

That they *Propose*, and *Labour* another *Change*, appears, *First*; From the *Recourse* they have in almost all their *Schismatical Papers* to **the Obligation of the Covenant**; which is no other, than to *Conjure* the *People* under the *Peyn* of *Perjury*, to *Treat* Your Majesty, as the *Covenanters* did *Your Father*; and (in a flat *Contradiction* to the *Blessed Apostle*) to pronounce, that *Hee* that [O B E Y E S] shall receive to himself *Damnation*. A *Second Proof* of their *Designe* may be drawn from their still pleading **the Continuance of the Long-Parliament; & the Sovereignty of the People**; which is but in *Plain Terms*, to *Disclayme* Your *Authority-Royal*, and to *Declare* to the *World*, that *tthey* want nothing but *Another Opportunity* for *Another Rebellion*. What may be the *Event* of *These Liberties*,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

bertyes, belongs not to Mee to divine; but that such Libertyes are taken, I do, with great Reverence, presume to Enform Your Majesty: And further; that the *Visible Boldness*, and *Malice* of the *Faction*, seems not to be the *only Danger*; Diverse of the very *Instruments*, who are *Entrusted* with the *Care* of the *Press*, being both *Privy*, and *Tacitly Consenting* to the *Corruptions* of it; by virtue of which *Connivence*, many *Hundred-Thousands* of *Seditious Papers*, since your Majestyes Return, have passed *Unpunished*. And yet in This *Prodigious Licence*, and *Security* of *Libelling* Your *Sacred Majesty*, and the *Government*, let but any *Paper* be *Printed* that *Touches* upon the *Private Benefit* of some *Concerned Officer*; The *Author* of *That Paper* is sure to be *Retriv'd*, and *Handled* with sufficient *Severity*.

Finally; To present Your Majesty with some *Common Observations*: It is noted, *First*, as a very *Rare Thing*, for any *Presbyterian Pamphlet* to be *Seiz'd*, and *Suppressed*, unless by *Order* from *Above*. *Secondly*, It is observed of *Those Offenders* that are *Discovered*, that *Generally* the *Rich* have the *Fortune*

to

The Epistle-Dedictory.

to Come off, and the Poor to Suffer: and Thirdly; that scarce One of five, though under Custody, is ever brought to either of Your Majesties Principal Secretaryes of State.

I have now Discharg'd my Soul both to God, and to Your Majesty; in what I take to be an *Honest*, and a *Necessary Office*; and I have done it with *This Choice* before me, either to suffer the worst that *Malice*, or *Calumny* can cast upon me, or to Forfeit my *Duty*. I should not speak **This** but upon *Experience*, nor dare to mention it upon **This** *Occasion*, but that I think it highly Imports Your Majesty to know how *Dangerous* a Matter it is to Render you a *Publique Service*. To present Your Majesty with a *Fresh Instance*; I was lately Engaged as a *Commissi-
oner*, in a *Publique Debate* on the behalf of the *Loyal Officers*; and for no other *Crime*, or *Provocation*, but for *Asserting the Profess'd Desires of the Whole Party*: A Certain Gentleman took such a *Heat*, and *Confidence*, as Openly to Charge me with *Writing against Your Majesty*; *Affirming* withal, that Your Majesty had *Accused me for it to the Parlia-*

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ment

The Epistle Dedicatory.

ment, and that my Lord Chancellor would Justifie it : Since which time, it appears, not only that *Hee Himself* was the first Person that by a Private Tale had Endeavour'd to Exasperate my Lord Chancellor against Me; but that being called to Account by my Lords Order, for so Great, and so Injurious a Boldness, both towards Your Majesty, and his Lordship, **He desired God to Renounce him, if ever he spake the Words,** (Although Delivered in the Face of a Full Committee.) If I were Impudent enough to trouble Your Majesty with a Personal Character, His Familiar Discourses, both concerning your Sacred Majesty, and the Honourable House of Commons, would afford matter for it; but let God witness for me, that I have no Passion, but for your Majesties Service, and for the General Good of Your Loyal Subjects : Both which Interests, I do humbly conceive to be very much concern'd in some Provision, that men may not suffer in their Reputations, for doing their Duties; and that Those Persons who have Chearfully, and Honourably passed through the utmost extremities

The Epistle Dedicatory.

tremities of a Long and Barbarous Warr, out of a sence of Loyalty to Your Royal Father, may not now at last, be stung to Death by the Tongues of Tale-Bearers, and Slanderers for being Faithful to Your Majesty. Which is the Case of Many, more Considerable then my Self, and among the Rest in Particular of

Your MAJESTIES

Most Loyall and Obedient Subject

Roger L'Estrange.





To the Right Honourable the

L O R D S

And, To the Honourable the

C O M M O N S

Assembled in Parliament.



Having been lately Employ'd, to *Draw up* some *Proposals* touching the *Regulation of the Press*, and to *Search* for certain *Seditious Books*, and *Papers*: I think it *Agreable* both to my *Reason*, and *Duty*, that I *Dedicate* to your *Honours* some *Accompt* of my *Proceeding*; especially in This *Juncture*, when both
the

The Epistle Dedicatory.

the *Danger*, and the *Remedy*, are the Subject of your *Present Care*. The *Drift*, and *Argument* of This Little Treatise, is Express'd in the *Title*. One Particular only was forgotten in the *Body* of the Discourse, which I must now Crave Leave to Insert in my *Dedication*; (*i. e.*) *An Additional Expedient for the Relief of Necessitous, and Supernumerary Printers*; Many of which would be well enough Content to *Quit the Trade*, and Betake themselves to *Other Employments*, upon Condition to be *Re-imburs'd* for their *Presses, Letter, and Printing-Materials*: and it is Computed that 4000 *l.* or thereabouts, would Buy off their *Stock*; for the *Raising* of which Sum, and so to be *Employ'd*, there occurs This *Expedient*.

It is Credibly Reported, That there have been Printed at least *Ten, or Twelve Impressions* of a *Collection* Entituled, *The First, Second, and Third Volume of Farewel-Sermons*: (with the Figures of the Ejected Ministers) which is no *Other*, then an *Arraignment* of the *Law*, and a *Charge of Persecution*, against the *King*, and his *Parliament*.

Upon a Supposition of *Twelve Impressions*, (at a *Thousand* a piece, which is the *Lowest*) the *clear Profit*, beside the *Charge of Paper and Printing*, Comes to 3300 *l.* which Sum, being Impos'd as a *Fine*, upon *Their Heads* for whom the Books were *Printed*, will defray a *Considerable Part* of the afore-said *Charge*, and what is *wanting*, may be abundantly made up by the like Course upon the *Publishers* of *Other Seditious Pamphlets*, Keeping the Same *Proportion* betwixt the *Profit*, and the *Punishment*.

Of

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Of the *Farewel-Sermons*, I Seiz'd the other day in *Quires*, to the Quantity of betwixt *Twenty* and *Thirty Ream* of Paper; and I Discovered likewise the Supposed Author of *Another Pamphlet*, Entituled [*A Short Survey of the Grand Case of the Ministry, &c.*] Wherein is Maintain'd, in opposition to the Declarations Required by the Act of *Uniformity*; That in some Cases It may be lawful to take Arms against the King — To take Arms by the Kings Authority, against his Person, or Those Commis-
P. 21. *
P. 22.
P. 23.
missioned by Him — And that the Obligation of the Covenant is a Knot cut by the Sword of Authority, whilst it cannot be Loosed by Religious Reason. Concerning which, and many other Desperate Libels, if your Honours shall think fit to Descend into any Particular Enquiry, it may be made appear, that whereas not *One* of *Twenty* is *Now taken*, scarce *One* of a *Hundred* could *Scape*, if there were not *Connivence* (at least, if not *Corruption*) joyn'd to the *Craft* and *Wariness* of the *Faction*.

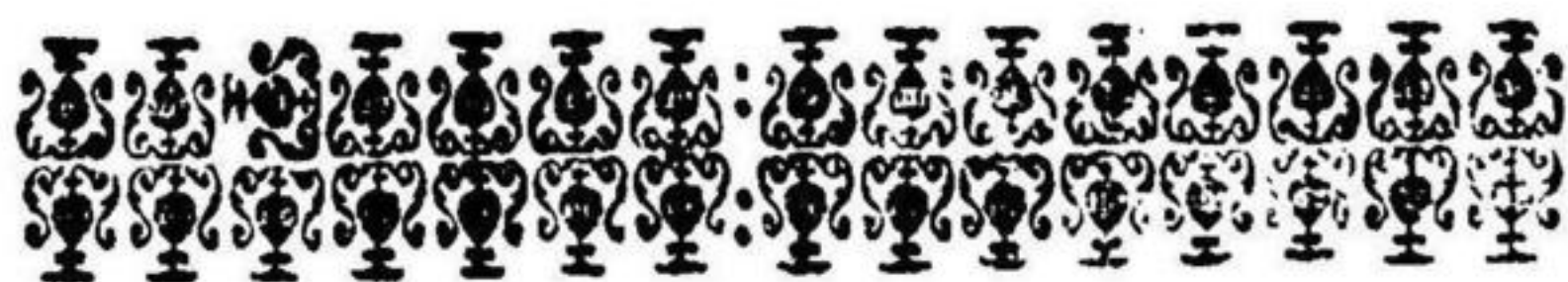
How the *World* will understand This *Freedome*, and *Confidence*, in a *Private Person*, I do not much Concern my Self; (provided that I offend not *Authority*) but the Question to Me seems *short*, and *easy*, *Whether it be Lawful, or not, for any Man that sees his Countrey in Danger, to Cry out TREASON?* and *Nothing Else* hath Extorted This *Singularity* of *Practice*, and *Address*, from

Your Honours

Most Dutiful Servant

Roger L'Estrange.





Considerations and Proposals

In Order to the

Regulation

OF THE

P R E S S S.



Think no man denies the *Necessity* of Suppressing *Libellous* and *Unlawful Pamphlets*, and of *Regulating the Press*; but in what *manner*, and by what *means* This may be Effected, That's the Question. The Two Main-points are

Printing, and *Publishing*.

The Instruments of setting the work afoot are These. The Promoters, The *Adviser*, *Author*, *Compiler*, *Writer*, *Corrector*, and the Persons for whom, and by whom; that is say, the *Stationer* (commonly), and the *Printer*. To which may be Added, the *Letter-Founders*, and the *Smiths*, and *Joyners*, that work upon *Presses*.

The usual *Agents* for *Publishing*, are the *Printers* themselves, *Stitchers*, *Binders*, *Stationers*, *Hawkers*, *Mercury-women*, *Pedlers*, *Ballad-singers*, *Posts*, *Carriers*, *Hackney-Coachmen*, *Boat-men*, and *Mariners*. Other Instruments may be likewise employ'd, against whom a General Provision will be sufficient. *Hiding*, and *Concealing* of unlaw-

Proposals in Order to the

sal Books, is but in order to Publishing, and may be brought under the same Rule.

Touching the *Adviser, Author, Compiler, Writer, and Corrector*, their Practices are hard to be Retriv'd, unless the One Discover the Other.

A General Expedient in Order to Discovery.

This Discovery may be procur'd partly by a *Penalty* upon refusing to Discover, and partly by a *Reward*, to the Discoverer; but let both the *Penalty*, and the *Reward* be *Considerable*, and *Certain*: and let the *Obligation* of *Discovery* run quite Through, from the *first Mover* of the Mischief, to the *Last Disperser* of it. That is to say; *If any unlawful Book shall be found in the Possession of any of the Agents, or Instruments aforesaid, let the Person in whose possession it is found, be Reputed, and Punish'd as the Author of the said Book, unless he Produce the Person, or Persons, from whom he Receiv'd it; or else acquit himself by Oath, that he knows neither Directly, nor Indirectly, how it came into his Possession.*

Concerning the Confederacy of *Stationers, and Printers*, we shall speak anon: but the thing we are now upon, is, singly *Printing*, and what necessarily relates to it.

Multiplicity of Private Presses and Printers a great Evil.

One great Evil is the *Multiplicity of Private Presses*, and Consequently of *Printers*, who for want of *Publique*, and warrantable employment, are forc'd either to play the *Knaves in Corners*, or to want Bread.

The Remedies are,

The *Remedy* is, to reduce all *Printers, and Presses*, that are now in *Employment*, to a *Limited Number*; and then to provide against *Private Printing* for the time to come, which may be done by the Means Following.

To Reduce, and Limit the Number,

First; The *number of Printers and Presses* being resolv'd upon, let the *Number of their Journey-men, and Apprentices* be likewise *Limited*: and in like manner, the *Number of Master-Founders, and of their Journey-men, and Their Apprentices*; all which to be *Allow'd of, and Approv'd* by such *Person or Persons*, as shall be *Authoris'd* for that purpose; neither let any *Joyner, Carpenter, or Smith*, presume to work for, or upon any *Printing Press*, without such *Allowance* as aforesaid, according to the *Direction* of the late Act for Printing, Secondly,

Secondly, *Let all such* Printers, Letter-Founders, Joy-
ners, Carpenters, and Smiths, *as shall hereafter be Allow'd,*
as aforesaid, be Respectively and severally Interrogated before
their Admittance, in order to the Discovery of Supernumerary
Printers and Presses. That is;

And to disco-
ver the Super-
numeraries;

1. *Let the Printers be Question'd what Private Presses*
they have at any time wrought upon for so many years last past,
and the time When, and For, and with Whom: and what
other Printers and Presses they know of at Present, beside
Those of the present Establishments.

With the
means of doing
it.

2. *Let the Founders be also Examined, what Letter they*
have Furnish'd since such a Time; When and for Whom,
and what other Printers &c. ———— Ut Supra.

3. *Let the Joyners, Carpenters, and Smiths be Question'd*
likewise what Presses they have Erected, or Amended, &c.
When, and for Whom? and what other Presses, Printers,
&c. — as before.

And if after such Examination it shall appear at any time
within so many Months, that any Man has wilfully conceal'd,
or Deny'd the Truth, let him forfeit his Employment as a
Person not fit to be Trusted, and let the Enformer be tak'n into
his Place if he be capable of it, and desire it; or Else, let
him be Rewarded some other way. The same course may be ta-
k'n also concerning English Printers and Presses beyond the
Seas.

This may serve as to the Discovery of *Private Printers*
and *Presses already in Employment*: Now to prevent un-
derhand-dealing for the *Future*, and to Provide against
certain *other Abuses* in such as are *Allow'd*.

First; *Let a special care be tak'n of Card-makers, Lea-*
ther-Guilders, Flock-workers, and Quoyf-drawers; ei-
ther by expressly inhibiting their use of such Presses, as may be
apply'd to Printing of Books, or by tying them up to the same
Termes, and Conditions with Printers; and let no other
Tradesman whatsoever presume to make use of a Printing-
press, but upon the same conditions, and under the same Pe-
nalties with Printers.

Let no Trade-
men but Prin-
ters use Prin-
ting-Presses.

Proposals in Order to the

Cautions for
Securing and
Regulating
the Press.

2^{ly}. Let no Presse or Printing-House be Erected or Lett, and let no Joyner, Carpenter, Smith, or Letter-Founder work for a Printing-House, without notice (according to the late Act)

3^{ly}. Let no Materialls belonging to Printing, no Letters ready founded, or cast, be Imported or Bought without the like notice, and for whom (according to the late Act.)

4^{ly}. Let every Master-Printer be Bound at least, if not sworn, not to Print, cause or suffer to be Printed in his House, or Press, any Book or Books without Lawful Licence (according to the late Act.)

5^{ly}. Let no Master-Printer be Allow'd to keep a Press but in his own Dwelling-House, and let no Printing-House be permitted with a Back-dore to it.

6^{ly}. Let every Master-Printer certifie what Warehouses he Keeps, and not Change them without giving Notice.

7^{ly}. Let every Master-Printer set his Name to whatsoever he Prints, or causes to be Printed (according to the late Act.)

8^{ly}. Let no Printer presume to put upon any Book, the Title, Marque, or Vinnet, of any other Person who has the Priviledge of Sole Printing the same, without the Consent of the Person so Priviledg'd (according to the late Act) and let no man presume to Print another mans Copy.

9^{ly}. Let no Printer presume either to Re-Print, or Change the Title of any Book formerly Printed, without Licence; or to Counterfeit a Licence, or knowingly to put any mans Name to a Book as the Author of it, that was not so.

10^{ly}. Let it be Penall to Antedate any Book; for by so doing, New Books will be shuffled among Old Ones to the Encrease of the Stock.

11^{ly}. Let the Price of Books be Regulated.

12^{ly}. Let no Journey-man be Employ'd, without a Certificate from the Master where he wrought last.

13^{ly}. Let no Master discharge a Journey-man, nor Hee Leave his Master, under 14 dayes Notice, unlesse by Consent.

14^{ly}. Let the Persons employ'd, be of Known Integrity, so near as may be; Free of the sayd Mysteries, and Able in their Trades (according to the late Act.)

But if 60 Presses must be reduc'd to 20, what shall all those People do for a Livelyhood that wrought at the other 40?

Obj.

It is provided by the Late Act, that as many of them shall be employ'd as the Printers can find *Honest* work for, and a sufferance of more, is but a *Toleration* of the Rest to Print *Sedition*, so that the *Supernumeraries* are in as ill a Condition *now*, as they will be *Then*; and yet something may be thought upon for their Relief.

Ans.

There have been divers *Treasonous* and *Seditious Pamphlets* printed since the Act of *Indemnity*; as, The Speeches of the Late King's Judges; Sir Henry Vane's [Pretended] Tryal; The *Prodigies* 1 Part and 2. and the Like. Let any of These *Necessitous* Persons, make known at whose Request, and for whose *Behoofe* These, or the Like *Seditious Libells* have been Printed, and they shall not only be Pardon'd for having had a hand in it *Themselves*, but the first *Enformer* shall upon *Proof* or *Confession* be Recommended to the first *Vacancy* whereof he is Capable in the *New-Regulation*, and the Next to the Second, and so successively: And moreover a *Fine* shall be set upon the *Heads* of the *Delinquents*, to be Employ'd toward the *Maintenance* of so many of the *Indigent Printers* as shall be Interpreted to *Merit* that *Regard*, by such *Discovery*.

A Provision
for Poor Prin-
ters.

Next to *Printing*, follows *Publishing* or *Dispersing*, which, in and about the *Town*, is commonly the work of *Printers, Stitchers, Binders, Stationers, Mercury-women, Hawkers, Pedlars, and Ballad Singers*.

Publishers and
Dispersers a-
bout the Town

Concerning *Printers, Stitchers, and Binders*; The *Penalty* may be *Double*, where the *Fault* is so: That is; where the same *Person* (for *Example*) is found to be both *Printer* and *Disperser* of the same *unlawful Books*, he may be *Punished* in Both *Capacities*: of the Rest (the *Stationer* excepted) little needs be said but that they may be *Punishable*, and the *Penalty* Suited to the *Quality* of the *Offender*.

to be Punish'd.

The Stationers
have their Pri-
vate Ware-
houses, and Re-
ceivers.

The most Dangerous People of all are the *Confederate Stationers*, and the breaking of That Knot would do the work alone. For the *Closer* Carriage of their business they have here in the Town, Their *Private Ware-Houses, and Receivers.*

Let every Stationer certifie, what Ware-Houses he keeps, and not change them without giving notice.

Receivers and
Concealers to
be Punish'd as
Dispersers.

Let the Receivers and Concealers of Unlawful, or Unlicens'd Books be Punish'd as the Dispersers of them, unless within 12 houres after such Receipt they give notice to ——— that they have such Quantities of Books in their Custody, and to whom they belong.

The Stationers
Agents for Dis-
persing their
Books Abroad.

They hold Intelligence *A'road* by the means of *Posts, Carriers, Hackny-Coachmen, Boatmen, and Marriners*: and for fear of *Interceptions* they Correspond by *False Names, and Private Tekens*; so that if a *Letter, or Pacquet* miscarry, people may not know what to make on't. As for the Purpose; so many *Dozen of Gloves* stands for so many *Dozen of Books.* Such a *Marque* for such a *Price, &c.*

Their wayes of
Privy Corref-
pondence and

Concealment.

They enter in their *Day-Books*, only in General terms, such and such *Parcells of Books*, without naming *Particulars.*

The means of
Prevention &
Discovery.

1. *Let every Stationer, living in or about London, be oblig'd to keep a Day-Book of the Particulars of all the Unlicens'd Books, and Papers, which he sends, causes or allowes to be sent, by any of the Messengers above-mentioned, into any parts of his Majestyes Dominions; and let him Enter the Names likewise of the Persons to whom he sends them, under a Penalty; if either he be prov'd, to have kept a False Book, or to have Corresponded under a False Name, and let every Stationer elsewhere (i. e. within the Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales) be oblig'd to keep a Day-Book likewise, of what Unlicens'd Books, and Papers, he Receives, and from whom, upon the like Penalty.*

2. *Let no Stationer presume to send, cause or allow to be sent, either by Land, or Water, any Dry-Fatts, Bales, Packs, Maunds, or other Fardells, or Packquets of Printed Books, or Papers, without superscribing them in such sort, that they*

may

Regulation of the Press!

7

may be known to be Books, together with the Names of the Persons from whom they are sent, and to whom they are Directed: Under peyn of Forfeiting all Parcels of Books that are not so supericrib'd, or otherwise that are advertis'd under False Names.

3. Let every Hackny-Coach-man, Carrier, Boatman, or Mariner, that knowingly Transgresses in the Private Conveighance of such Letters or Packquets as aforesaid, be subjected to a Particular Penalty.

Concerning Books Imported. They must be First Prepar'd beyond the Seas; Secondly, conveighed hither; and Thirdly, Received and Distributed here.

Let the English Printer, Vender, or Utterer of any Books written in the English Tongue, or by an English man, in any other Tongue and Printed beyond the Seas, to the dishonour of his Majestie or of the Establish'd Government, be required to appear from beyond the Seas, by a Certain Day, and under such a Penalty; which if he Refuse, or wilfully fayl to do, Let it be made Penall for any Person Living within his Majestys Dominions, (after sufficient Notice of his such Contempt) to hold any further Correspondence with him, Either by Message, Letter, or otherwise, till he hath given satisfaction for his Offence.

An Expedient against Printing of English Books beyond the Seas;

Let a General Penalty be layd upon the Importers of any English Books, whatsoever, Printed beyond the Seas. And so likewise upon the Contractors, for; the Receivers, Concealers, and Dispersers of, any Books whatsoever, Imported into This Realm, and Disposed of without due Authority. It rests now to be Consider'd. First What Books are to be suppress; and Secondly, Into what hands the Care of the Press is to be Committed.

and Importing and Disposing of them.

The Books to be suppress are as follows.

First,

What Books,
Libels, and
Positions are
to be suppress-
ed, and

First, All Printed Papers pressing the *Murder of the late King.*

Secondly, All Printed *Justifications* of that Execrable Act.

Thirdly, All Treatises Denying *His Majesties Title* to the *Crown of England.*

Fourthly, All Libels against the *Person* of His Sacred Majesty, His Blessed *Father*, or the *Royal Family.*

Fifthly, All Discourses manifestly tending to stir up the People against the *Establish'd Government.*

Sixthly, All Positions Terminating in This Treasonous Conclusion, that, *His Majesty may be Arraign'd, Judg'd, and Executed, by his People:* such as are These Following.

Coordination, The Sovereignty of the Two Houses, or of the House of Commons; or of the Diffusive Body of the People, in Case of Necessity. The Justification of the Warr Rais'd in 1642. in the Name of King and Parliament. The Defence of the Legality and Obligation of the Covenant. The Separation of the Kings Person from His Authority. The Denial of His Majesties Power in Ecclesiastical Affairs. The Mainteyning that the Long-Parliament is not yet Dissolv'd.

If it be objected that This Looks too farr Back; It may be 'Answer'd that *Persons* are Pardon'd, but not *Books.* But to more Particular Reasons for the Suppressing of *Old Pamphlets.*

Reasons for
the suppresssing
of old Pam-
phlets as well
as new.

First; It is (with Reverence) a Duty both from his Sacred Majesty and his Parliament, to the Honour, and Memory of the Late King, to deliver the Reputation of That Blessed Martyr, from the Diabolical Calumnies, and Forgeries, which are yet Extant against his Person, and Government.

Secondly,

which are to be Suppress'd.

Secondly, *It is as much a Duty toward our Present Sovereign, of whose Royal Family, and Person, as much Ill is said, and Publish'd, as is possible for the Wit of Man to utter, or for the Malice of Hell to Invent.*

Thirdly, *In Relation to Political Ends, and to the security of the Publique, they ought to be suppress'd: for they do not only Revile, and Slander his Majesties Royal Person, but many of them Disclaim his very Title to the Crown; and Others Subject his Prerogative, and Consequently his Sacred Life to the Sovereign Power of the People; and this is done too, with all the Advantages of a Pestilent and Artificial Imposture. Now why a Pamphlet should be Allow'd to Proclaim This Treason to the World, which but whispered in a Corner would certainly bring a Man to the Gallows, is not easily Comprehended.*

Fourthly, *It makes the English Nation cheap in the Eyes of the World, to find the Bloud and Virtues of the Late King, appear so little to be consider'd, beside the Hazardous Consequence of Blasting the Royal Cause, and of Discouraging Loyalty to Future Generations, by transmitting the whole Party of the Royallists, in so many Millions of virulent Libels, to Posterity, for a prostitute Rabble of Villeins, and Traitors.*

Fifthly, *Those Desperate Libells and Discourses do not only Defame the Government, Encourage and Enrich the Faction, and Poyson the People; but, while They are Permitted, Those Stationers and Printers, that would otherwise be Honest, are forced either to play the Knaves for Company, or to Break: for there's scarce any other Trading for them, but in That Trash. Their Customers will be supply'd, and if they ask for any of these Treasonous Books, they must either Furnish them, or Lose their Custom.*

Sixthly, *The same Reason that prohibits New Pamphlets, requires also the Suppressing of Old ones, (of the same Quality) for 'tis not the Date, that does the Mischief, but the Matter, and the Number. If they be*
C Plausible,

The Books, Libels, and Positions, &c.

Plausible, and Cunning enough to Deceive, and then Numerous enough to Spread, Buchanan, and Knox will do the business as sure as Baxter, and Calamy. Besides that in some Respects, the Old Ones have a great Advantage of the New: for being Written in times of Freedom, and Menag'd by great Masters of the Popular Stile, they speak playner, and strike homer to the Capacity and Humour of the Multitude; whereas they that write in the fear of a Law, are forc'd to cover their Meaning under Ambiguities, and Hints, to the greater Hazzard of the Libeller, than of the Publique.

Seventhly, They must be suppress'd, in Order to a Future Regulation: for otherwise 'tis but Antedating New Books, and making them pass for Old ones (which may be done with very little Hazzard of Detection) or else, as any Saleable Book grows scarce; 'tis but Reprinting it with a false Date, and by these Additions, and Recruits, a Stock of Seditious Pamphlets shall be kept in Motion, to the end of the world. In Fine, if they are not fit to be Sold, they are not fit to be kept; for a verbal Prohibition without an Actual Seizure will be rather an Advantage to the Private Trade, then a Hindrance; and bring Profit to the Factious Book-sellers and Printers, that have Copies by upon their hands, by Enhansing the Prices.

Having already set forth the Quality of those Pamphlets that ought to be suppress'd, together with the Necessity of Suppressing Old as well as New; It will now follow properly, that I give some Instances of both sorts upon the foregoing Subjects.

Instances

11

Instances of Treasonous and Seditious Pamphlets.

I. Against the Life of the Late King.

The Armies Remonstrance from St. Albans, Nov. 16. 1648.

We Propound that That Capital and Grand Author of our Troubles, the Person of the King, may be speedily brought to Justice, for the Treason, Bloud, and Mischief He is Guilty of. P. 62.

God's Delight in the Progress of the Upright.

Printed for
Thomas Brew-
ster, 1649.

Have ye not sins enough of your own, but will ye wrap your selves up, in the Treachery, Murder, Bloud, Cruelty and Tyranny of others? P. 17. Set some of those Grand Malefactors a Mourning, (that have Caus'd the Kingdom to Mourn so many years in Garments Roll'd in Bloud) by the Execution of Justice, &c. P. 19. Delivered in a Sermon by Thomas Brooks before the Commons, Dec. 26. 1648.

II. In Justification of Putting His Late Majesty to Death.

The Speeches and Prayers of some of the Late King's Judges.

Printed 1660
Divers Impres-
sions.

That men may see what it is to have an Interest in Christ in a Dying hour, and to be Faithful to his Cause.

The Publisher
to the Reader.
In a Person-
ated Letter
from Cook to
a Friend.

I look upon it [the Murder of the King] as the most Noble and high Act of Justice that our Story can Parallel P. 41.

Mercurius Politicus.

Printed by a
Person now in
Office and em-
inent employ-
ment, 1651.

That Heroick and most Noble Act of Justice, in Judg-
ing and Executing the Late King — An Act Agreeing
with the Law of God, Consonant to the Laws of Men,
and the Practices of all well order'd States and King-
domes. P. 784.

Charles the First was Executed a Tyrant, Traytor, Mur-
therer, and a Publique Enemy to the Nation. P. 1032.

III. Against the Title of the Royal Family to the Crown of *England*.

Mercurius Politicus.

P. 982.

Playing the second Part of *Perkin Warbeck*, who once
Invaded the North after the same manner, with a Crew
of *Scots* at his Heels, and had every Jot as good a Title
as Himself, or as his Predecessor *Henry* the 7th.

P. 832.

We had a sufficient Reason to lay aside this Bastard
Race of Usurpers and Pretenders, if it were for no other
Cause, but the Meer Injustice and vanity of their Title.

P. 833.

We have cause to Cut off this Accursed Line of Tyranny,
Bloud, and Usurpation.

Printed by Mr.
Baxters Printer
for *Fran. Tylon*
1651. one of
his Majesties
Servants, if he
has not lately
put off his
place.

The False Brother.

The Parliament having wisely Chang'd the Government
to a Common-wealth, and Cut off that hereditary Usur-
pation of Monarchy, which was never either justly Begun,
or Continued. P. 34.

The

a *The Rise, Reign, and Ruine of the House of Stuarts.*

b *The true Pourtraiture of the Kings of England.*

It is high time now to End that Line that was never either well Begun, or Directly Continued. P. 42.

A Short Reply, &c. together with a Vindication of the Declaration of the Army of England.

a A Foul and Treasonous piece, printed for Giles Calvert, 1652.

b Printed by Mr. Baxt. Printer for Francis Tylon, 1650.

Printed by one in Office and great Employment, for Fran. Tylon, Aug. 16. 1650.

Touching the Right of This King's Inheritance, We affirm it not only to be none Originally, without the Consent of the Nation; but also, to be justly Forfeited, by his Own, and Father's Destructive Engagements against the Common-wealth, and therefore we know not of any Duty, we Owe him, more than to any other engaged Enemy of the Land.

P. 14.

IV. Treasonous, Malicious, and Scandalous Libels against the Person of his most Sacred Majesty and the Royal Family.

Plain English.

Printed for Livewell Chapman, 1660.

What hope that the Reformed Religion will be protected and Maintained, by the Son, which was so Irreligiously betray'd by the Father?

P. 2.

A Door of Hope.

1660. Since his Majesties Return.

C. S. the Son of That Murtherer, is Proclaimed King of England, Whose Throne of Iniquity is built on the Bloud of Precious Saints and Martyrs.

P. 1.

Printed by
Peter Cole,
1648.

The Author
Cook the Regi-
cide.

The Case of King Charles.

The Murtherers of our Saviour were less Guilty than
that Prince.

Printed by a
person in Of-
fice and credit,
for Fran. Tyton,
1650.

An English Translation of the Scottish Declaration.

P. 22.

Let Justice and Reason blush, and Traytors and Mur-
therers, Parricides, and Patricides, put on white Gar-
ments, and Rejoyce as Innocent ones, if This Man [the
late King] should escape the hands of Justice and Punish-
ment.

P. 13.

An Implacable and Gangren'd Person.

P. 19.

A Butcher rather than a Prince of Bowels and Affection.

P. 23.

[Charles the 2^d] the Son of a Bloody Father, Heir to
an Entayl'd Curse, more certain than to his Kingdom,
Train'd up in Bloud, and one that never suck'd in any
other Principles but Prerogative and Tyranny.

The None-such Charles.

P. 167.

[Charles the First] rather chose to submit to the
Justice of an Axe in a Hang-mans hand, than to sway a
Scepter with Equity.

P. 169.

This Age knows what such a Tyrant was, in not feeling
his force any more upon their Throats.

Printed 1654.
by a person in
Offices of great
Trust and Be-
nefit.

A True State of the Case of the Common-wealth.

That Accursed Interest; -----a Family that God has
cast out before us; ----- that has worn the marques and
badges of Gods high displeasure for almost these Hundred
years, P. 47. The Person of the young Pretender, is a son of
Bloud, &c. P. 48.