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~~Popish~~

Popish Treaties not to be rely'd on: In a Letter from a Gentleman at *Tork*, to his Friend in the Prince of *ORANGE's* Camp. Addressed to all Members of the next Parliament.

39999059851277 By B. Burnet

THE Credulity and Superstition of Mankind hath given great Opportunities and Advantages to cunning *Knaves* to spread their Ners, and lay their Traps in order to catch easie and unwary Creatures; these being led on by Ignorance, or Stupidity, they by Pride or Ambition, or else a Vile and Mercenary Principle; Therefore seeing we are in this State of Corruption, bred up to believe Contradictions and Impossibilities, led by the Nose with every State *Mountebank*, and *Monkish Jugler*, moved like *Puppers* by Strings and Wires; it seems high time to vindicate Humane Nature, and to free her from these Shackles, laid upon her in the very Cradle; for *Man* (who ought to be a Free and Rational *Animal*) in his present State is only an *Engine* and *Machine*, contriv'd for the Vanity and Luxury of *Priests* and *Tyrants*, who claim to themselves, and seem to Monopolize the *Divine Stamp*, tho' we are all made of the same Materials, by the same Tools, and in the same Mould, equal by Nature, met together and link'd in Societies by mutual Contracts, plac'd by turns one above another, and entrusted for some time with the Power of executing our own Laws, and all by general consent for the Publick Good of the whole *Community*; this is the genuine Shape and Figure of Primitive and Sound Government, not distemper'd and fatally infected with the monstrous *Excrescencies* of Arbitrary Power in one single Member above all the Laws of the whole; *Infalibility*, *Divine Right*, &c. started by *Knaves* and *Sycophants*, believ'd by *Fools*, who scarce ever heard of the *Greek* and *Roman* Histories, and never read their own. I shall therefore give some Examples (out of an infinite number) of People ruin'd and utterly destroy'd by their easie Credulity, and good Nature, matter of Fact being a stronger Proof, and better Rule to steer Mankind, than the empty Notions of the *Schools*, invented only to perplex and confound our Ratiocination, lest it should discover the naked Truth of things. The present Letter will confine it self only to Publick Promises, Oaths, and Solemn Contracts, scandalously violated by the *Roman Catholics*, not with *Heathens* and *Hereticks* only, but amongst themselves: We will begin with the more remote Countries.

The *Spaniards* and *Portugueses* have acted so treacherously with the *Africans*, and the Natives of both *Indies*, that the Cruelty of the History would be incredible, if it was not related by their own Historians; their Leagues and Treaties (the most sacred Bonds under Heaven) were soon neglected, and

the Spirit of their Religion broke all before it; how many Millions of those innocent Creatures were murder'd in cold Blood, and for Pastime sake, with all the variety of Torments that the Devil could inspire into them; how soon were the vast Regions of *Mexico*, *New Spain*, *Peru*, *Hispaniola*, *Bra-sel*, &c. depopulated, above twenty Millions of the poor harmless Inhabitants being put to death in full Peace, and they the best natur'd People in the World, and very Ingenious; tho' they may seem Savages to a sort of Men, who think all *Barbarians* that differ from them in Habits, Manners, Customs, Diet, Religion, Language, &c. not considering that all-wise Nature hath contriv'd a different Scene of things for various Climates; Nay, such is the Inhumanity of these *Catholic* Nations here at home, that they will frequently bring Strangers (settled amongst them by the Laws of Commerce) and their own fellow Subjects into the *Inquisition*, especially if they are Rich, upon a pretence of some Heretical opinion, tho' they themselves at first protect and license the Opinion; as in the case of *Molino*, whose Book had receiv'd an *Imprimatur* from most of the *Inquisitors* of *Spain* and *Italy*, and even from the *Infalible Head* of the Church, yet afterwards it was burnt, and he himself together with many of his Followers miserably tortur'd; the *Pope* scarce escaping the Punishment. The Generous *Marshal Schomberg* (driven out of *France* for his great Services) who had won many Battels for the *Portugueses*, and sav'd their Country, could not be suffer'd to end his Old Age amongst them, but was forc'd in the midst of Winter to commit himself to the Sea, and fly to an inhospitable Shoar.

The present *French King* renounced all his Pretences on *Flanders*, concluded the *Pyrenean Treaty*, and swore at the Altar, not to meddle with that Country; but how well he observ'd that Sacred Covenant, *Baron D' Isola* will best inform you in his *Bouclier d'Etat*, for which he was thought to be poison'd; neither hath the *French Monarch* been contented to break all Faith and Measures with the *Spaniard*, but he hath gone about to deceive and ruine the *Pope*, *Emperour*, all the *Princes* and *Ele-Flours* of the Empire, the Prince of *Orange*, Duke of *Lorraine* the *Swizzes*, the *Dutch*, and the *English*, and not only these his Neighbours and Allies, but his own Protestant Subjects, who had all the Security that Solemn *Edicts*, *Oaths*, and *Promises* could afford them, besides many other obligations upon the Crown for bringing the King to the Throne; yet

yet all of a sudden they found themselves oppress'd and destroy'd by his Apostolical *Dragoons*, their Temples razed, their Wives and Children taken away, their Goods and Estates confiscated, themselves cast into Prisons, sent to the Gallies, and often shot at like Birds: His seizing of *Lorraine*, *French Comté*, *Alsace*, *Strasburgh*, *Luxemburgh*, the Principality of *Orange*, the County of *Avignon*, *Philipsbourg*, the whole *Palatinate*, the Electorates of *Mentz*, *Treves*, and *Cologne*, his building of Cittadels in the *Empire* and in *Italy*, &c. are so contradictory to National Agreements, and Publick Treaties, that scarce a *Jesuit* or a *Frenchman* can have Impudence enough to defend them; a *Banditto*, a *Pyrate*, or a *Pick-pocket* would be asham'd of such Actions; and an ordinary Man would be hang'd for a Crime a Million times less. His seizing upon *Hudson's Bay*, and leading the *English* into Slavery; the *French* Treachery in the Engagement at Sea between us and the *Dutch*, their frequent seizing of our Ships, are light things, not worthy our Resentment, being under the Conduct of a *Monsieur* whom the World so justly vilifies and despises.

The *Emperour* can have no good Pretence to condemn the *King of France*, or any other *Catholick* Prince for breach of Common Faith and Honesty, since he himself hath plaid the same Game with his *Protestant* Subjects, inviting some of the Chief of the *Hungarian* Nobility to *Vienna*, under the colour of Treaty and Friendship, and then cutting off their Heads, seizing their Estates and Properties, destroying their Pastors and Churches, and extirpating the whole Reform'd Religion, after he had promis'd and stipulated to protect and give them the liberty of their Consciences. The *Parisian* *Masacres* were carried on and executed under a Mask of Friendship, all the Principal *Protestants* of *France* being invited to the healing Marriage, to *Revel* and *Careis*, were Barbarously Butcher'd at the Toll of a Bell in their Beds, when they dream'd they slept securely. The *Irish* *Massacre* of above 200000 *Protestants* was no less Treacherous, it was a Copy of the *Spanish* Cruelty in the *West Indies*, to whom the *Irish* are compar'd by Historians for their Idleness and Inhumanity, tho' not for their Wit.

The Persecutions of the *Protestants* in the Valleys of *Piedmont*, are another instance of Popish-Immunity and baseness; they were under the common shelter of publick Pactions and Treaties, and had been solemnly own'd by the *Dukes of Savoy*, to be the most Loyal and the most Couragious of their Subjects. The present *Duke*, who undertook this last Persecution, was not content to destroy them with his own Troops, but call'd in the *French* to assist at the Comedy, to shoot them off the Rocks, to hunt them over the *Alps*, and to sell the strongest of them to the Gallies, that the very *Turkish* Slaves themselves might deride and insult over them,

Catholicks, who have not Power or Opportunity to execute the same things, seem to condemn the Conduct in Publick, but sing *te Deum* in Private, and as soon as ever they have got a sufficient Force, commit the like Barbarities, so essential to their Religion, that all the instinct of Nature cannot separate them. The Holy Father at *Rome* (tho' he sets up for a moderate and merciful *Pontificate*) order'd *te Deum* to be Sung up and down, for the extirpation of Heresy out of *France* and *Piedmont*; and our *English* *Catholicks* have given us (as their Army and Interest encreas'd) several proofs, how well they can juggle and disguise themselves; setting up Courts of *Inquisition*, turning *Protestants* out of all Employes, and even out of their Freeholds, dispensing with Laws, Ravishing Charters, packing Corporations, &c. and all under a notion of Liberty or a Divine Right; they with their *Accomplices* defended illegal Declarations, and set up an Authority above all our Laws, under the Cloak of a sham Liberty of Conscience, racking at the very same time the Consciences of the Church of *England* Men, and undermining the Foundation of our State: If *Mr. Pen* and his *Disciples*, had condemn'd the unlawfulness of the *Declarations* and the *Dispensing Power*, when they wrote so fast for Liberty of Conscience, they had then shew'd a generous zeal for a just Freedom in Matters of Religion, and at the same time a due veneration to the *Legislative Power*, (*Kings*, *Lords*, and *Commons*) but the secret of the *Machine*, was to Maintain and Erect a *Prerogative* above all Acts of *Parliament*, and consequently to introduce upon that bottom *Tyranny* and *Popery*; yet, notwithstanding all this uncontrollable Power, and shew of Grandeur, an Easterly Wind, and a Fleet of Fly-Boats, would cancel and undo all again. Our *Monkish* Historians relate of *King John*, that being in some distress, he sent *Sir Tho. Hardington*, and *Sir Ralph Fitz-Nichols*, Ambassadors to *Mirammulim* the great Emperour of *Morocco*, with offers of his Kingdom to him, upon Condition he would come and aid him, and that if he prevail'd, he would himself turn *Mahometan* and renounce *Popery*.

I will not insist upon the violations of Laws and Treaties in the *Low Countries*, or the *Spanish* Tyranny over them, because the *Spaniards* have got so much by that Persecution and Cruelty, that they might be tempted to practise the like again; for by forcing the *Netherlanders* to take up Arms for their defence, and by necessitating *Queen Elizabeth* to assist and preserve them, they have set up a Free and Glorious State (as they themselves have call'd them in some Treaties) that hath preserv'd the languishing Monarchy of *Spain*, and the Liberty of *Christendome*.

The Base and Cowardly *Massacre* of that great *Hero* *William Prince of Orange*, of the Renowned *Admiral Coligny*, and the *Prince of Conde*; the many Bloody Conspiracies for the Extirpation of the whole Race

of the House of *Orange*; the Murders of *Henry the 3d.* and *Henry the 4th.* are all Records and everlasting Monuments of Popish Barbarity; what incredible Effusions of Blood hath been occasion'd by the frequent revolts of the *Popes* against the Emperours, by the Image-Worship, and the Holy Wars? What Treachery in the *Bohemian* Transactions and Treaties? What Inhumanity in burning *Jerome of Prague*, and *John Hus*? when they had the Emperours Pass, and all other publick securities from the Council itself, that put to Death those two Good Men.

The Reign of Queen *Mary*, is another Scene of the Infidelity and Treachery of the Church of *Rome*, what Oaths did she take, what Promises and protestations did she make to the *Suffolk* Men who had set the Crown upon her Head, and yet they were the first that felt the strokes of a Persecution from *Her*. Read her History in *Fox's Martyrs*, and see *Burnet's* History of the Reformation.

The many Conspiracies to destroy Queen *Elizabeth* and King *James*, the *Gunpowder-Plot*, the Counsels carried on in Popish Countries to take off King *Charles* the First, and the many late Popish Plots are a continued Series and Thread, carried on by the Church of *Rome*, to break thro' all Laws both of *God* and *Man*; to erect an Universal Monarchy of *Priestcraft*, and to bring the whole World under their Yoke. The *Sweeds* have taken an effectual and commendable way, to keep Popish *Priests* and *Jesuits* (those *Wretches* and disturbers of Societies, the declared enemies to the Welfare of Mankind) out of their Countries, by Gelding them, and consequently rendering them incapable of Sacerdotal Functions, the *Priests* have found out a *Salvo*, and will say Mass and Confess, if they can procure their *Testicles* again, and carry them in their Pockets either preserv'd or in *Powder*: In *Aethiopia*, *China*, and *Japan*, the *Roman Priests* have been so intollerably turbulent, and such extravagant Incendiaries, that they have been often Banished and put to Death; so that now they disguise themselves all over the *Eastern* Nations, under the Names and Characters of *Mathematicians*, *Mechanicks*, *Physicians*, &c. and dare not own their Mission to propagate a *Faith*, which is so own ridiculous all over *Asia*.

The long and dreadful Civil Wars of *France*, the many *Massacres* and *Persecutions*, and lastly the Siege of *Rochel*, are living Instances how far we may rely upon Engagements and Laws, both as to the taking of that *Bulwark*, and the promised relief from *France*. The *Protestant* Defenders of it, refusing to rely any longer upon Paper Edicts, and the word of a *Christian King*, had this *City* granted them a cautionary Town for their Security, for before they had alwaies been deluded out of their Advantages by fair Promises, insignificant Treaties, and the word of a King; yet *Lewis* the 13. following the

vicious Examples of Treacherous Princes, fell upon this *Glorious City*, which, upon the account of their Laws and Priviledges, made a resistance and brave defence, (having never heard of Passive Obedience amongst their Pastors) thinking it more lawful to defend their Rights, than it was for *Lewis* to invade them.

As for the late and present Reign here in *England*, they are too nice and tender things for me to touch; whether the *Transactions* of them are consistent with the *Coronation Oaths*, the many *Declarations*, *Protestations*, publick and solemn Promises, I am no fit Judge; they are more proper for the Gravity of an Historian, or the Authority of a *Parliament* to handle, than for a private Gentleman in a Letter to his Friend: The *Bishops Papers*, and the *P. of Orange's Declarations* are the best *Memoirs* of them, but they only begin, where the two parts of the History of the growth of *Popery* and *Arbitrary Government* left off, and how far we may trust to *Catholick Stipulations*, *Oaths* and *Treaties*, the facts of past and the present Age are the best *Criteria* and *Rules* to guide and determine us; for what happens every day, will in all probability happen to morrow, the same Causes alwaies produce the same Effects; and the Church of *Rome* is still the same Church it was a hundred years ago, that is, a Mass of Treachery, Barbarity, Perjury, and the highest Superstition; a *Machine* without any principle or settled Law of Motion, not to be mov'd or stop't with the weights of any private or publick *Obligations*; a *Monster* that destroys all that is sacred both in Heaven and Earth, so Ravenous that it is never content, unless it gets the whole World into its Claws, and tears all to pieces in order to Salvation; a *Proteus* that turns it self into all shapes, a *Chameleon* that puts on all Colours according to its present circumstances, this day an *Angel* of Light, to morrow a *Belzebus*. Amongst all the *Courts* of *Christendome* where I have conversed, that of *Holland* is the freest from Tricks and Falsehood; and tho' I am naturally jealous and suspicious of the Conduct of *Princes*, yet I could never discover the least Knavery within those Walls, it appear'd to me another *Athens* of *Philosophers*, and the only Seat of *Justice* and *Virtue* now left in the World; as for the Character of the *Prince of Orange*, it is so faithfully drawn by *Sir Will. Temple*, *Doctor Burnet*, and in a half sheet lately Printed, that I, who am so averse from Flattery, that I can scarce speak a good word of any Body, or think one good thought of my self, will not write any further *Panegyrick* upon his *Highness*, only that he is a very Honest Man, a Great *Souldier*, and a Wise *Prince*, upon whose Word the World may safely rely. A late *Pamphleteer* reviles the *Prince* with breaking his Oath when he took the *Statholder's* Office upon him, not considering that the Oath was impos'd upon his *Highness* in his *Minority* by a *French Faction*, then jealous of the

aspiring

aspiring and true Grandeur of his *Young Soul*; that the *States* themselves (to whom the Obligation was made) freed his *Highness* from the Bond; and that the necessity of Affairs, and the Importunities of the *People* forced that Dignity upon him, which his *Ancestors* had enjoy'd, and he so well deserv'd, that he sav'd the sinking Commonwealth (their *Provinces* being almost all Surpris'd and Enslav'd by the *French*) compared to the gaping State of *Rome* after the loss at *Canne*; his *Highness* was no more puff'd up with this Success, than he had been daunted with Hardships and Misfortunes; always the same *Hero*, Just, Serene, and Unchang'd under all Events, an Argument of the vastness of his Mind; whereas on the contrary, Mutability, (sometimes *Tyrant*, sometimes *Father* of a Country, sometimes *Huffing*, other times *Sneaking*) is oftentimes a Symptome of a Mean and Cowardly *Soul*, vile and dissolute, born for Rapine and Destruction.

As for the *Princesses*, she may without any flattery be stiled the Honour and Glory of her Sex; the most Knowing, the most Virtuous, the Fairest, and yet the best Natur'd *Princess* in the World; Belov'd and Admir'd by her Enemies, never seen in any Passion, always under a peculiar Sweetness of Temper, extremely moderate in her Pleasures, taking delight in Working and in Study, Humble and Affable in her Conversation, very pertinent in all Questions, Charitable to all *Protestants*, and frequenting their Churches: The *Princess* is often seen with her at the Prayers of the Church of *England*, and she with the *Prince*, at the Devotion of his *Church*; she dispenses with the use of the Surplice, Bowing to the Altar, and the Name of *Jesus*, out of Compliance to a *Country* that adores her; being more intent upon the Intrinsic and Substantial Parts of Religion, *Prayer* and *Good Works*: She speaks several Languages even to Perfection, is entirely Obedient to the *Prince*, and he extremely dear to her; in a word, *She* is a *Princess* of many extraordinary Virtues and Excellencies, without any appearance of Vanity, or the least mixture of Vice; and upon whose Promise the World may safely depend: As for the many Plots and Conspiracies against this *Royal Couple* a short time may bring them all to light, and faithful Historians publish them to the World.

Lastly, We may observe that whereas it hath been the Maxim of several Kings, both at home and abroad of late years, to contend and outvie each other in Preying upon, and Destroying not only their Neighbours, but their own *Protestant* Subjects, by all methods of Perfidiousness and Cruelty; the only way to establish Tyranny, and to enslave the natural Freedom of Mankind, being to introduce a general Ignorance, Superstition, and Idolatry for if once People can be perswaded that Statues

and Idols are *Divinities* and adorable, and that *Wafer* is the *Infinite God*, after two or three Ridiculous Words, utter'd by a vile Impostor and Impudent Cheat, then they may easily be bro'g submit their necks to all the Yokes that a *Tyrant* a *Priest* can invent and put upon them; for they part with their Reason, their Liberty will soon follow; as we behold every day in the miserable enslav'd Countries where *Papery* domineers: the contrary, it hath always been the steady and immutable Principle of the House of *Orange* to rescue *Europe* from its Oppressours, and to resettle Governments upon the Primitive and Immortal Foundation of *Liberty* and *Property*; a Glorious Maxim from the Old *Roman Commonwealth*, that *Fought* and Conquer'd so many Nations, only to set them Free to Restore them wholesome Laws, their Natural Civil Liberties; a Design so Generous, and so way Great, that the *East* groaning under the Cruelties and Oppressions of their Tyrants, flew in to the *Roman Eagles* for Shelter and Protection, under whose Wings the several Nations liv'd Free Safe and Happy, till Traitours and Usurpers began to break in upon the Sacred Laws of that virtuous Constitution, and to keep up Armies to defend them by Blood and Rapine, which *Justice* would have thrown in their Face, and Punished them as they deserved; the Preservation and Welfare of the *People* being in all Ages call'd the Supreme Law to which all the rest ought to tend.

From the foregoing Relation of matter of Fact it appears most plain, that the *Roman Catholics* are not to be ty'd by Laws, Treaties, Promises, Oaths or any other bonds of Humane Society; the fact and experience of this and other *Kingdoms*, declares the Mankind the invalidity and insignificancy of all *Treaties* and *Agreements* with the *Papists*; who notwithstanding all their Solemn *Covenants* with *Hereticks* do watch for all Advantages and Opportunities to destroy them, being commanded thereunto by their *Councils* and the principles of their *Church*, and infligated by their *Priests*.

The History of the several Wars of the *Barons* in *England*, in the Reigns of King *John*, *Henry* the Third, *Edward* the Second, and *Richard* the Second, in Defence of their Liberties, and for redressing the many Grievances (under which the *Kingdom* groan'd) is a full representation of the Infidelity and Treachery of those Kings, and of the Invalidity of *Treaties* with them; how many Grants, Amendments, and fair Promises had they from those Princes and yet afterwards how many Ambuscades, and Snares were laid to destroy those glorious *Patriot* Liberty; what Violations of Compacts and *Agreements* and what havock was made upon all Advantages and Opportunities, that those false Kings could take Read their *Historics* in our several *Chronicles*.

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