


Concerning P A P I S T S, and other Disaffected Persons.

MARIE R.



 Whereas Their Majesties, as well by the Regular and Impartial Administration of Justice to all Their Subjects, and Their abundant Mercy and Grace to such of them as have been liable to Penalties, as also by Prosecuting a necessary War against France by Sea and Land (on the Success of which the Common Safety of this Realm, and all other Their Majesties Kingdoms and Dominions doth Depend) have manifested Their Princely Care and Zeal for the Preservation, Ease and Welfare of all Their Subjects; and might justly Expect suitable Returns of Loyalty and Obedience from every of them: Nevertheless divers Papists and reputed Papists, and some other Persons Ill-affected to Their Majesties Government, and of Restless Spirits, abusing the Clemency which hath been used, have Resorted to, and Assembled in the Cities of London and Westminster, and other Places, and taken great Boldness by Seditions Discourses and Libels, and with Insolent Behaviour to Defame and Affront the Government; And also do Consult and Prosecute divers Mischivous and Treasonable Designs and Practices tending to the Disturbance of the Publick Peace, and the Destruction of Their Native Countrey. Their Majesties resolving not to suffer such Notorious Contempts of the Laws to go unpunished, and to Prevent the Evil Consequences of the same, have thought fit (with the Advice of Their Privy Council) to Issue this Their Royal Proclamation; And do hereby Require and Command all Lords Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and all other Officers and Magistrates whatsoever, That they be Circumspect and Vigilant in their Respective Charges and Jurisdictions, and perform their Duties in Suppressing the Insolencies, Designs and Practices aforesaid; and that from time to time they cause diligent Search and Inquiry to be made after the said Offenders, and them being Discovered, cause to be Prosecuted, and brought to Condemn Punishment according to Law.

And Their Majesties do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Popish Reculants, Patives or Denizens, being above the Age of Sixteen years, That they do (according to the Statutes in that behalf made) Repair to their respective Places of Abode, and if they have none, then to the Places where their respective Father or Mother is or shall be dwelling, and do not thereafter Remove or Pass above five miles from thence. And Their Majesties do likewise Charge and Command all Papists, and Persons reputed to be, (Except Merchant Strangers, settled Householders, and other Persons Excepted in the Statutes made in this behalf) on or before the Twenty third day of this instant April, to depart out of the said Cities of London and Westminster, and from all Places within the distance of Ten miles of the same, to depart out of the said Cities of Command the Lord Mayor of London, and all other Justices of the Peace, and other Officers within the said Cities and Ten miles of the same, that they make strict Search for, and Proceed against all such of them as shall presume to remain, repair or return within the Limits aforesaid, according to the Statutes in that Case provided; and particularly the Statute made in the first Year of Their Majesties Reign, Intituled (An Act for the Removing Papists and Reputed Papists from the Cities of London and Westminster, and Ten miles distance from the same) by Tendering to them the Declaration therein mentioned, and otherwise according to the said Act.

And Their Majesties do likewise Charge and Command the aforesaid, and all other Justices of Peace whatsoever, who shall know or be informed that any Person is, or is suspected to be a Papist, to Tender unto such Person the Declaration aforesaid, and proceed thereupon according to one other Act made in the said first Year of Their Majesties Reign, Entituled, (An Act for the better Securing the Government, by Disarming Papists and Reputed Papists.) And for the better Discovery of Persons Disaffected to the Government, and that being discovered, their Disloyal and Wicked Purposes and Attempts may be disappointed, Their Majesties do strictly Charge and Command all Justices of the Peace, and other Officers in that behalf Authorized, That where they shall find, or be informed of any Person, who by reason of his Conderlation, Discourse, or other Memeanour, shall be suspected not to be Well-affectd to Their Majesties Government, they do Tender unto such Person the Oaths appointed by an Act made in the first Year of Their Majesties Reign, Entituled, (An Act for the Abrogating of the Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance, and appointing other Oaths;) And that in case of Refusal to Take the same, due Prosecution be made thereupon. And for the more effectual Performance thereof, the said Justices of Peace are to make and keep Entries or Records of such their Proceedings, in order to the Tending the said Oaths again to the Person so Refusing; it being Their Majesties Pleasure, that the said Law be Executed to the utmost against such Offenders. And Their Majesties do hereby Charge, and particularly Require all Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace, That they do Met Monthly to Enquire into and Inform themselves of the Affairs of their respective Counties and Divisions, in relation to the Premises, and take special care to preferre the Peace, and prevent all Unlawful Meetings and Assemblies against Their Majesties and Their Government, and that from time to time they give Information of their Proceedings and Discoveries, to the Lords of Their Majesties most Honourable Privy Council.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall* the Ninth Day of *April*, 1691. In the Third Year of Our Reign.

God save King William and Queen Mary.

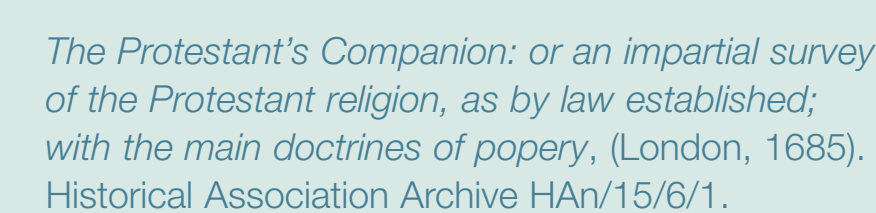
London, Printed by Charles Bill and Thomas Newcomb, Printers to the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties. 1691.

Religious differences have sparked fear and inspired political movements in many countries over the centuries. In England, the reformation introduced by Henry VIII began a long process of change, bringing intellectual debate, dissent and cultural achievement alongside violent plots linked to foreign powers.

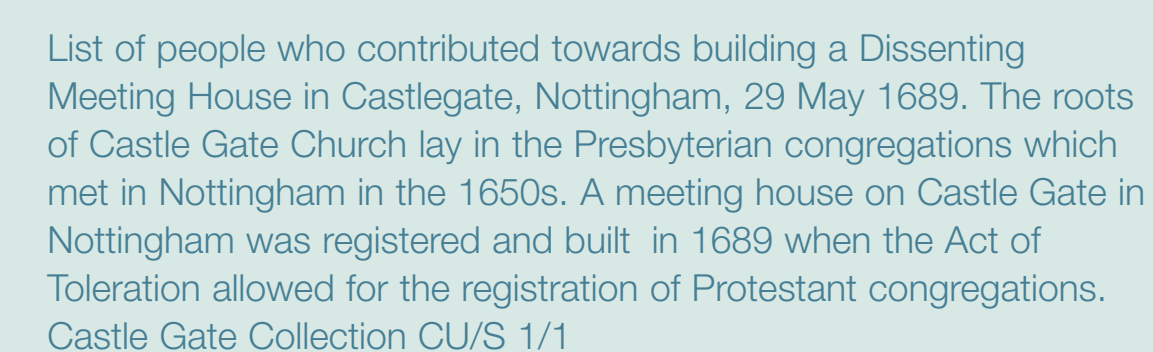
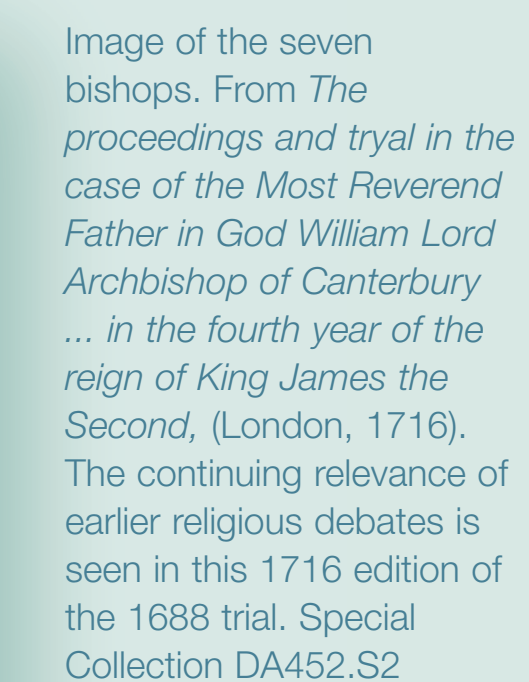
By the 1680s, after the bitter experience of the civil war, there was a common perception that a person's religion could predict their loyalty to the country's Protestant interests. Catholics were mistrusted because of their allegiance to the Pope and because of England's enmity with Catholic France and Spain. The arrival of Huguenots, fleeing religious persecution in France, encouraged such fears, which grew as the Catholic convert James II ruled without parliament and appointed Catholics to influential offices.

In April 1688 direct conflict came when James II reissued his Declaration of Indulgence, giving toleration to Catholics and Protestant dissenters. Seven bishops became national heroes when their opposition brought imprisonment in the Tower of London. The birth of James's son in 1688, led to fears of a Catholic succession and prompted an invitation to William of Orange to protect England's Protestant interest.

The peaceful settlement achieved in England in 1688-89, and its parliamentary legacy, stands in contrast to the military conflicts of William and James in Ireland, with their equally enduring traditions of religious and political difference.



Left: Proclamation concerning Papists and other disaffected persons, 9 April 1691. A belief that all Catholics might be a threat to the peace is shown in this royal proclamation for Westminster and the City of London, instructing them to return to their homes and ordering officers to watch out for an uprising by Catholics. Mellish Collection Me 2 P 3



Protestant dissenters secured greater freedom through the Toleration Act of 1689. In early 18th century England the political dimension of religious difference was most often seen as varieties of Protestant position. The Tories, who supported the ritual and traditions of the Church of England, were contrasted with the Whigs, who were generally less opposed to Protestant nonconformity. Both William and Mary and Queen Anne struggled to balance the power and aspirations of the political factions and the religious identities they represented.