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A
[NALSON, Rev. John]
LETTER

FROM 5

A JESUIT at PARIS,

TO HIS

CORRESPONDENT in LONDON;

Shewing the most effectual way to ruine the

GOVERNMENT

AND

PROTESTANT RELIGION.
John Nelson

L O N D O N ,

Printed, and are to be sold by Jonathan Edwin,
at the *Three Roses* in *Ludgate-street*. 1679.



A LETTER

FROM

A JESUIT at PARIS,

To his Correspondent in

LONDON, &c.

Honoured Dear Sir,



Ost varios Casus, post tot discrimina—

After many fears and frights, I thank our Blessed *Lady*, I am safe got out of the mouth of the *Lion*, and have got the *Sea* between me and Danger. It would be troublesome to repeat to you the Hazzards I have run; how often I was upon the brink of being discovered and taken by the *Hereticks*, who had laid all the Sea-Ports, to arrest all such as should attempt to pass over the *Seas*; but in regard I have something of more Moment and Concern for the *Catholick Cause* to impart to you, I will not stuff out this Pacquet with those

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relations, with the remembrance of which, I hope hereafter to laugh away some pleasant hours with you.

I give you thanks for the Account of *Affairs* which I have now before me; and you are desired still to continue it, in regard you may do it with great security, both by reason of the Way by which it comes, and the *Character* to which it is committed, which I think no person living besides your self has a Key of: and how ingenious soever some in *Hæreticopolis* may be in expounding *Cyphers*, this will cost them some time to Understand.

I understand by the Enclosed *Proclamation*, that the Immortal *Parliament*, as 'twas believed, is at last dissolved; and immediately upon the receipt of yours, I communicated it to their *Reverences*, the Fathers, *L. C. D. F.*, and *P.* The next day they summoned together such as we put confidence in, to enter upon an immediate *Consult* upon this traverse of our Affairs. Their *Reverences* were under as great disappointments, and as many disturbances as you can well imagine; this short turn having utterly broken all the measures they had so wisely taken: and for some time they were unresolved what Course to steer, being uncertain of what complexion and temper a new *Parliament* might prove.

True it is, the late *Parliament* were in Reality, as we had reason to believe, mostly in their Judgment enemies enough to *Catholicks*; but we had so well managed our Affairs, as to possess some of the most active and hot-spirited among them, the *Bellweathers* of the House, who lead the whole Flock. That there was an absolute Necessity, First to run down some *Great Ones*, who interposed, as we persuaded the *World*, in favour of us; and that unless they were taken out of the way, there could be nothing done to purpose, either to discover the bottom of the Design, or to punish the Persons principally accused for the *Plot*, as they call it. This was a *Method* which it was judged would take them off from the violent Chase and pursuit of poor *Catholicks*,

Catholicks, who were now upon the dreadful brink of a most terrible *Persecution*; and to divert the Storm, nothing could be more conducive, than to dash these black clouds one against another, and discharge their *Thunders* mutually upon themselves: for if we could this or any other way engage the *Hereticks* deep enough in a *Quarrel* among themselves, by the industry of our Party among them, we could not tell how far these discords and oppositions might transport them, nor what would be the consequences or events of a Fire-ball in the H. C. We have had no contemptible success with such Engines in other occasions; and it was hoped it might at last put the *Nation*, and especially the *City*, into a general *Mutiny* upon the disappointment of their expectations; there being nothing so unanimously desired, or so passionately longed for, as to see all private heats laid aside, to prosecute the main business of the *Plot*. And should it have come to a Popular Tumult, we should not have been wanting to have made considerable advantages of it; and under the colour of being *Popishly affected*, and obstructing the prosecution of the *Plot*, few of our enemies should have survived the fury of the *Tumult*; and it may be we might have made the *Hereticks* themselves help to reduce their new *Babylon* to Cinders a second time, and in that confusion have done some executions which I will not name. However, if that should not happen, we were hereby assured, that we should for some time divert the imminent danger which threatened *Catholicks* in general, and those Noble Lords in particular; and no man knows what the very gaining a little time may produce in favour of us; *Multa cadunt inter peculum, supremaque labra.*

This course we knew was very pleasing to many, who, as our worthy Friend, the much lamented Mr. C. had judiciously observed, to revenge their private *Piques*, had of a long time set themselves to oppose the *Ministers* of State, and to whom such a promising opportunity was *Muscadine and Eggs*; and besides, it was infinitely taking and popular

to all the Discontented and Factious, who, I am persuaded, would joyn with the *Catholicks*, the *French*, or the *Great Turk*, rather than lose the pleasure of seeing some great Persons take the *Sommerfet* from the Battlements of Honour, especially such as they are made believe are Enemies to their Liberties and *Religion*, which are but one thing with two names.

However, we were sure of this advantage, that by degrees we should persuade People, that there never was any such thing as any Design among the *Catholicks* against the *King* and Government; there being no more evident Demonstration, that the *H. C.* did not believe there was any real *Plot*, than both, their violent proceeding upon disbanding the *Army*, even when 'twas said and sworn before them, that there were 20000 men in a readiness to attend the fatal blow; and that the *King of France* with his whole Power was ready to strike in with the *Catholicks*; as also their running so furiously upon the *Ministers* of State, in stead of the *Catholick Lords*, as being the more dangerous *Conspirators*. And, it may be, we have lost no ground by this *Artifice*, and thereby confirming what we did at first, and have all along given out, and spread abroad, That it was in reality a Plot of the *Presbyterians* against his *Majesty* and the Government; and that under the pretence of a *Plot* of the *Popists*, all such as were friends to the *Church or Crown* should be accused to be *Popishly* affected; and thus by ruining the Supporters, the *Crown* must fall of course; this was the way in which they, by our assistance, so successfully proceeded in 41. and nothing could make it more plain, than that the same *Party* was playing their old Lessons over again. And as we did then in a great measure happily effect our Designs, and manage the Heats, till they burnt down all, so we were not without hopes to do the same, and like Flints, by striking them one against another, to dash them in pieces, and fire the several Factions; and when they were of all sides sufficiently weaken'd, under pretence of supporting

ing the weaker *Party*, to bring in the Power of the most *Christian King*, to make them Friends by subduing both; which was an advantage we might reasonably hope for now, but could not expect in the former *Revolutions*, while his Most *Christian Majesty* was a *Minor*, and *France* it self engaged in Domestick troubles.

But this *Parliament* and our hopes of it being both at an end, we are to consider, how we may manage the next, and succeeding *Parliaments*, so as nothing may be done to our prejudice, and by consequence, that they may become advantageous to our *pious Design* of extirpating *Herésie*, and propagating the *Catholick Faith* in *England* again. Upon our serious *Consult*, it has been here, after mature deliberation, agreed upon, to send you these following *Resolutions* of their *Reverences*, who have done me the honour to assign me the *Province*, of taking care to transmit their *Resolves* to you, and receive your *Answers*, and an account of the movement of our *Affairs*. You are therefore with all speed and secrecie, to take care of the dispatch of these *Instructions* to all such Persons as we may confide in, and you shall judge qualifi'd for an *Employ* of so great *Trust* and *Concern*, that I may say, the whole *Catholick Interest* and *Hopes* in *England* depend upon the success of this *Negotiation*.

And *first*, as a thing previous to the *Elections* which shall be made, let the *Emissaries* in all *Counties* and *Corporations*, especially such as have *Burgesses*, be vigilant to enquire who are to be the *Candidates* for the succeeding *Elections*.

Secondly, Use all endeavours among the *Dissenters*, according to your interest, to get in as many of the late *Members* as you can; especially *P. C. B. M. &c.* Our excellent Friend *M.* has assured his *Illustriousness* the *N.* that he will not fail to be in again, nor to do us the best service he can, now, as well as in the last.

Thirdly, If that cannot be done, but that new ones are set up, if they be Persons firm in their *Loyalty*, and such as have any the remotest dependence or expectance upon the

Court.

Court or *Army* ; then give out among the People, though *en passant* only, as you bait at your Inns, that to your certain knowledge such *Gentlemen* are great *Courtiers*, and are of that party who design to reduce the *Nation* to the *Model* of *France*, by the arbitrary power of a standing *Army*, thereby to introduce and establish *Popery* among us, which you must be sure to make most vehement and bitter *Declamations* against. If they are Persons strongly inclined to the Church of *England*, then give out confidently that they are *Papists* in heart, and that you know where they have declared themselves such ; and that it is most visible by their being so much for *Ceremonies*. This all the *Dissenters* will not only easily credit, but will be very helpful to us in spreading and justifying the *Reports* ; these things spoken with confidence, and a pretence of some intimate knowledge of them, and that you now divulge these secrets out of sincere affection to the *Nation*, ready to be betray'd to *Popery* and *Arbitrary Government*, will fly like *Wildfire* among the ordinary *People*, who will snowball it from hand to hand, and father it upon Persons of *Repute*, not knowing the Original hand from whence it first came ; and the repeated *Eccho* of their fears will both redouble and confirm it. By this means you shall, with the Assistance of the *Dissenters*, who greedily lay hold of this occasion which they have so long wish't for and expected, be sure to promote the Election of such, especially *Burgesses*, as are disaffected both to the *King* and *Church* ; and though possibly in many *Counties* the Loyalty and Interest of the *Gentry* will carry it against us in the *Knights* ; yet the greatest number consisting of the *Corporation Representatives*, there we shall be too hard for them. And then mark what will follow upon this, they will meet with an invincible prejudice against the *King* and *Established Government*, both *Civil* and *Ecclesiastical* ; they will fall violently upon the *Church* as well as the *Papists* ; they will be so taken up with their own Affairs and the *Embroidments* our friends will engage them in, that ours will sleep ; and being so hot and disorderly, they will in probability oblige

lige the *King* to send them home again, and seek for another.

By this means the *City* and *Country* will be under the greatest disappointment and dissatisfaction imaginable, the *Army* which is undisbanded will be thought necessary to be kept up, but there being no money to pay them, they will be burdensom and exasperate the *Country*, and augment the jealousy of a standing *Army*; A *Fleet* must also be put to Sea, because of the Alarms of the *French*, and when they come home, the Seamen must be turned adrift for their pay too; it may be a new *Parliament* may not be called in some time, but such ways may be taken to raise money for the Publick necessity as may render the Government odious, and dispose People to a General *Insurrection*, and then the day's our own, then my *Noble Lords* will save their heads, for they must be tried by a *Parliament*, and if our Affairs jump luckily, they shall out-live *Metbusalem*, if they live to see a *Parliament* so Loyal as to give the King money or indeavour to settle the Peace of the *Nation*.

But in the second place, if the *Parliament* shall sit, and there appears any danger to us by their being unanimous, and so like to continue, and to bring the Lords to their Trial: all indeavours must be used by such as can be got to be of our party, First to run them again upon the *Ministers* of *State*, as being *Popishly affected*, and designing to Subvert *Parliaments*, and introduce *Arbitrary Government*. I need not speak much of this, you are sufficiently instructed how to manage it, and cannot want a *Crie* to set it up.

Secondly, Obstruct as much as possible the raising of money, and yet cry out of the imminent danger and fears of the *French*; it may be you will have reason and truth in that particular; however delay the money by asking such unreasonable things in recompence of it, that the *money Bill* upon such terms may be rejected, and be sure it may not be near enough for the present *necessity*; urge the mispending of the great *Revenue* of the *Crown*, but lay all the blame upon the

Ministers, you cannot miss the King if you hit the other. This will put the *King* out of all hopes of this *Parliament*, and may possibly occasion either a long *Prorogation*, or a *Dissolution*, and we shall be better provided against a new *Parliament* then we could be now, being so much surprized in the dissolution of the last. And besides if this *Parliament* upon which the *Faction*s have built such hopes, be either *Prorogued* or *Dissolved*, it will still exasperate the *Nation*, and they will be apt to receive the impressions of their own fears and jealousies, as well as those we must now sow thick among the discontented; if it continues, we must still play the same Game, and with *Grievances*, smart *Votes*, and ingrateful *Addresses* keep up and increase the misunderstandings, and widen the differences between the *K.* and the *H. C.*

Thirdly, asperse all that are not of our *Party*, as *Court-Pensioners* or *Popishly affected*, this will secure ours from being discovered, and will render the other *Odious* to the People; and hinder their being elected into a future *Parliament*, if this should happen to be hastily dissolved.

Fourthly, Let our *Party* bring in a *Bill* for *Comprehension* or *Toleration*, if it does no other good, it will occasion great heats and altercations, long debates, and will be an excellent *Remora* to all other Affairs, it will make them highly the favourites of the Separatists who will be most active against the *Crown* and *Government*, and if that can be passed, it is no matter how severely it excludes all *Catholicks* from the benefit of *Indulgence*; it will certainly ruin the *Church*, and we shall be well enough able to do our business, and to prepare the People for a *Rebellion* under the shelter of the several *Sects* who hate both the *King* and *Church* sufficiently already, and will in a little time become so numerous and confident, that by their help we may be able to effect our Design. This politick *Janus* of a *Toleration* has also another face, for it will alienate the affections of those who are zealous for the *Church*, from the *Crown*, when they see that give them up as a prey to their *Enemies*; and if it does not yet, it will disable them
from

from doing it the service they would in case of necessity; so that if it comes to a *Rebellion*, the K. will be destitute of assistance of all sides, and must seek for aid among the *Catholics* and from foreign *Power*, and which way soever the *Game* goes, we shall be sure not only to Save our *Stakes*, but to win by the hand.

Dear Sir, be diligent and vigorous in the prosecution of these *Instructions*, and be assured that nothing shall be wanting on the part of their *Reverences* to forward the *Design*, neither Mony for the present, nor Power for the future if occasion offers. His Most *Christian Majesty* is now at intire liberty in Case of necessity, either to interpose for us, or assist us with his invincible Arms, and to promote so pious and Religious a *Cause*. Doubt nothing, but be of good Courage in the discharge of this high trust reposed in you, and assure your self of Success and proportionate Rewards on *Earth*, *Eternal Fame*, and *Eternal Glory* in the *Heavenly Paradise*. The *Fathers* send you theirs and the *Apostolical Benediction*; have me recommended to all our Friends. Our *Blessed Lady* and all *Saints* pray for you, and succeed your indeavours. Fail not to advertise us, how the wheel of Affairs moves, that so we may be able to advise and direct accordingly, Farwell.

D. P.

Paris Feb. 12. N. St.

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January 1980
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 cordingly. I will.

D. P.

I was Feb. 10. M. 2.
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