

Lords' Petition (1640)

Francis Russell, 4th Earl of Bedford, William Seymour, 2nd Earl of Hartford, Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, Edmund Sheffield, 1st Earl of Mulgrave, Robert Rich, 2nd Earl of Warwick, Oliver St John, 1st Earl of Bolingbroke, William Fiennes, Viscount Say and Sele, Henry Montagu, Viscount Mandeville, Robert Greville, Second Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court, Edward Howard, First Baron North of ESCRICK, George Manners, 7th Earl of Rutland, Theophilus Clinton, 4th Earl of Lincoln, David Cecil, 3rd Earl of Exeter, Dudley North, Third Baron North, Francis Willoughby, Fifth Baron Willoughby of Parham, Thomas Savile, Second Baron Savile of Pontefract, Philip Wharton, Fourth Baron Wharton and John Lovelace, 2nd Baron Lovelace?

Transcript

British Library, Additional MS 22959, ff. 65r–66r

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[*Left margin:* Receiued Sept. 9.] The humble petition of yo[u]r Majesties most loyall subjects whose names are here underwitten in the behalfe of themselves & many others

Most gracious Soueraigne

The speed of that suite & service which we owe to yo[u]r Maj[es]tie & our earnest affection to the good & welfare of yo[u]r Realme of England hath moued us in all humility to beseech yo[u]r Royall Maj[es]tie to giue us leaue to offer to yo[u]r princely wisdom the apprehension which we & others of yo[u]r faithfull Subjects haue conceiued of the great distemper & danger now threatning the Church & State & yo[u]r Royall person, & of the fittest meanes by which they may be remoued & prevented.

The Euill & Dammages whereof your Maj[es]tie may be pleased to take notice are

That yo[u]r Majesties sacred p[er]son is exposed to hazard & danger in the present expedition against the Scottes armie, & by this the occasion of this warre yo[u]r reuenues much wasted yo[u]r subjects much burthened

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with Coate & Conducte mony, Billiting of soldiers raised for that service & your whole kingdome become full of Care & discontent.

The sundry Innovations in matters of Religion, the Oath & Canons lately imposed upon the Clergie & other yo[u]r Maj[es]t[y]'s subjects, the great increase of Popery & employing of Popish recusants & others evill affected to yo[u]r Religion by lawe established in places of power & trust especially in Commanding men & armes both in the Field & in sundry Countries of this yo[u]r Realme, Whereas by the lawes they are p[er]mitted to haue no Armes in their owne houses. The Greate mischief which may fall upon this kingdome if the intention w[hi]ch hath credibly been reported of bringing in Irish & forreine forces should take effect. The vrging of Shipmony & prosecution of Sheriffes in the Starre-Chamber for not levying it. The heaue charges upon Merchandise to the discouraging of Trade The multitude of Monopolies & other patents whereby the Commodities & Manufactures of this kingdome are much burthened, to the great & uniu[er]sall greevance of yo[u]r people.

The great grieffe of the Subjects by the long intermission of Parliaments & the late & former dissolving of such as haue beene called without the happie effect which otherwise they might haue produced.

[*Left margin: Remedy*] For Remedie whereof & the prevention of danger which may ensue to yo[u]r Royall person & the whole State.

They doe in all humility & faithfulness beseech yo[u]r most excellent Maj[es]tie that you wold be pleased to summon a Parliament within some shorte &

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convenient time, whereby the cause of these & other great greivances which yo[u]r people lie under may be taken away, & the Authors & Councillors of them may be brought to such legall Tryall & condigne punishment as the nature of their severall offences shall require, & the present warre may be composed by yo[u]r wisdom without effusion of blood, in such manner as may conduce, to the hono[u]r & safetie of yo[u]r Maj[es]tis person, the Comfort of yo[u]r people, & the vnity of both yo[u]r Realmes, against Common enemies of Reformed Religion.

[*Left margin: See below Three-leaved flower*] And your Maj[es]ties Petitioners shall alwaies pray &c. see belowe Three-leaved flower .

'Tis said by some that this Petition was made by xij Nobles Erle of warwicke, ~~{gap: illegible}~~ Lord Say &c. Some say that the Counsell did joine excepting &c Others say that some of the privy Counsell undertooke the deliuey of it. But it is reported (as materiall if true) that his Majestie enclineth, & that Commissioners are appointed to treat with the Scottes (who be aduancing) upon the 10th of this s September./ There is also a reporte that teh Scottes being willing to referre all to an English Parliament, doe affirme yt if his Maj[es]tie dare not trust a Parliament in Scotland nor yet in England that he is but in evill case.

[*Left margin: Three-leaved flower*] Earles Bedford Hertford Essex Molgraue Warwicke Bullingbrooke Rutland Lincolne Exceter. Viconts Say & Seale Mandeuill Lo[rd] Brooke Lo[rd] Howard. Barons Lo[rd] North Willoughby Sauile Wharton Louelace.

Other manuscript witnesses

- All Souls College, MS 125, ff. 89r–90r
- British Library, Additional MS 35331, f. 78r
- British Library, Additional MS 44848, ff. 283v–284r
- British Library, Harley MS 4931, ff. 66r–66v
- British Library, Harley MS 7162, ff. 51x–52x
- British Library, Harley MS 787, ff. 98r–v
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 1232, ff. 67v–68v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1467, ff. 132r–132v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1710, ff. 118r–v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1710, ff. 119r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 33469, ff. 48r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 38847, ff. 24r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 57929, ff. 9v–10v
- British Library, Additional MS 70002, ff. 302r–303v
- British Library, Additional MS 70082, item 26
- British Library, Harley MS 1219, ff. 175r–179v

- Beinecke Library, OSB MSS 28, Box 2, Folder 25, item 41, 524r–v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn File 12397, ff. 1r–v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn File 6183, ff. 1–3
- Beinecke Library, Osborn b297, item 11
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 800, ff. 110v–111v
- Bodleian Library, MS Carte 119, ff. 89r–91v
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, ff. 13r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, ff. 16r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 908, ff. 42r–43v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 103r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, f. 105r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 140r–141r
- Cornwall Record Office, T 1608/3
- Cambridge University Library, Additional MS 335, f. 41r
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.192, ff. 46r–48r
- Huntington Library, EL 7872
- Kent Archives, U269/O294, item 11
- Kent Archives, U386/O7/1
- Kent Archives, U951/O10, item 5
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2603
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2608
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2619
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3565
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3566
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/42
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/RO/1/72, ff. 286–310
- Surrey History Centre, LM/1331/50
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /16 [ff.33r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /17 [ff.37r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /18 [ff.39r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /19A [ff.40r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /19B [ff.41r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /20 [ff.42r–43r]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /21 [ff.44r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /22 [ff.46r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /23 [ff.47r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /24 [ff.48r–v]
- Trinity College, MS O.1.35, Part II, 1r–v

Seventeenth-century print exemplars

- J[ohn] M[ilton], *Newes from Hell, Rome and the Inns of Court* (1641) [Wing M42A], pp. 8–10
- J[ohn] M[ilton], *News from Hell, Rome, and the Innes of Court* (1642) [Wing M2131], pp. 8–10

Modern print exemplars

- *The Harleian Miscellany* (1st ed.), vol. 7, pp. 205–206