

A Speech to the King Concerning Toleration of Popery, Attributed to Archbishop Abbot (1623)

Pseudo-Abbot

Transcript

British Library, Hargrave MS 311, ff. 205r–205v

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May it please yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie: I have been too long silent and I am afraid I have neglected the duty of the place it hath pleased God to call me vnto and yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty to place me therein; But nowe I humbly crave leave I may discharge my conscience toward God, and my dutie to yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie, and therefore I beseech you S[i]r to give me Leave freely to deliver my self, and then lett yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie doth w[i]th me as you please. yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie hath propounded a Toleration of Religion, I beseech yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty to take into yo[u]r considerac[i]on what yo[u]r Act is what the Consequence may bee. By yo[u]r Act you Labour to sett vp that most damnable & hereticall doctrine of the Church of Rome the whore of Babylon.

How hatefull it wilbe to God and greevous vnto yo[u]r good subiectes the true professors of the Gospell, that yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty who hath disputed and learnedly written against those wicked heresies should nowe shew yo[u]r self a patron of theis Doctrines w[hi]ch yo[u]r pen hath told the world and yo[u]r conscience telles yo[u]r self are sup[er]stitious, idolatrous, detestable. Add herevnto what you have done in sending the Prince into Spaine w[i]thout the consent of yo[u]r Councell, the privitie and approbac[i]on of yo[u]r people; And although you have a large interest in the Prince as the sonne of yo[u]r flesh, yet have the people a greater as the sonne of the kingdome, vpon whom next after yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie are their eyes fixed and welfare depend, And so tenderly is his going apprehended as believe it S[i]r, howsoever his Retorne may be safe, yet the drawers of him into that Action so dangerous to himself, so desperate to the Kingdome will not passe away vnquestioned, vnpunished, Besides this Tollerac[i]on you endeavour to sett vp by yo[u]r proclamac[i]on, it cannott be done w[i]thout a Parliament vnles yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty will Let yo[u]r subiectes see that you will take vnto yo[u]r self to throwe downe the Lawes of the land at yo[u]r pleasure.

What dreadfull Consequences S[i]r, theis thinges may drawe after I beseech yo[u]r Ma[jes]ty to consider and above all least by this

Tollerac[i]on

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Tollerac[i]on a discontinuance of the true profession of the Ghospell wherew[i]th God hath blessed vs, and vnder w[hi]ch this kingdome hath for many yeares florished, yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie doe not drawe vpon the kingdome in generall and yo[u]rself in particuler Godes heavie wrath & indignac[i]on. Thus in discharge of my duty towards God, to yo[u]r Ma[jes]tie and the place of my Calling I have taken humble bouldnes to deliver my Conscience, And now S[i]r, doe w[i]th me what you please./

Other manuscript witnesses

- All Souls College, MS 163, ff. 157v–158r
- British Library, Additional MS 28011, ff. 10r–11v
- British Library, Additional MS 28640, ff. 112r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 4108, ff. 83r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 44848, ff. 138v–139v
- British Library, Harley MS 3791, ff. 119r–v
- British Library, Harley MS 4289, f. 239r
- British Library, Harley MS 4761, ff. 132v–133v
- British Library, Harley MS 6255, pp.1–3
- British Library, Additional MS 52585, f. 19r
- British Library, Additional MS 72366, f. 12r
- British Library, Additional MS 72415, f. 124r
- British Library, Egerton MS 783, p.29
- British Library, Harley MS 1583, ff. 89r–v
- British Library, Harley MS 360, f. 88r
- British Library, Harley MS 4264, ff. 6r–7r
- British Library, Harley MS 969, ff. 1r–2r
- British Library, Stowe MS 145, ff. 39v–40v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn b8, ff. 12x–14x
- Beinecke Library, Osborn fb57, f. 125
- Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cinq-Cents de Colbert ms 467, ff. 193r–194r
- Bodleian Library, MS Barlow 54, ff. 66r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Eng. hist. d. 89, ff. 317–319
- Bodleian Library, MS Jones 56, f. 47r
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson B 151, f. 54r
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 1048, ff. 71r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 1092, f. 6v
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 160, ff. 16v–17r
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 853, f. 2r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 73, f. 301r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 73, f. 302r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 73, ff. 303r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 82, ff. 192r–193r
- Cambridge University Library, Additional MS 335, ff. 84r–v
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.b.50, pp205–207
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.275
- Houghton Library, fMS Eng 1266.2, f. 138r
- Huntington Library, HM 213, pp1–3
- Lambeth Palace Library, MS 3152, f. 1r
- Lambeth Palace Library, MS 943, ff. 79–90
- Northamptonshire Record Office, Montagu MS Vol. 44, unfoliated
- St John's College, MS K.56, item 50
- St John's College, MS K.56, item 51
- The National Archives, SP 14/150, /55 [ff.83r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 14/150, /56 [f.84r]
- The National Archives, SP 14/150, /57 [ff.87r–v]