

To the King's most Excellent Maieſtie

Seit ſhall yet come est desire.

Humblly

then unto our Sovereigne Lord the King. In Gods Spiritual and Temporall, and Common in Parliament assembled. That whereas it is declared and enacted by a Statute made in the time of the Reigne of King Edward the first commonly called Statutum de Tallage an conceliale. That noe Tallage, or Aide should be laid, or levied by the King or his heires in this Realme, without the good will and assent of the Arch Bishops, Bishops, Earles, Barons, Knights, Burgesses, and other the free men of the Commonalty of this Realme. And by authority of Parliament made in the five and twentieth yeare of the reigne of King Edward the third, it is declared and enacted, That from thenceforth noe person should be compelled to make any loane to the King against his will, because such loanes were against reason and the franchises of the land. And by other Lawes of this Realme it is provided, That none should be charged by any charge, or imposition called a benevolence, nor by such like charge. By which the Statute before mentioned, and other the good Lawes and Statute of this Realme, the Subjects have inherited this freedom, That they should not be compelled to contribute to any Day, Tallage, Aide, or other like charge, not set by common consent in Parliament. Yet notwithstanding of late divers Commissions directed to severall Commissions, in severall Counties, have issued, by means whereof your people have been in divers places assembled, and required to lend certayne summes of mony unto your Maieſtie. And many of them upon their refusal to do so have had an oath administered unto them not warrantable by the Lawes or Statute of this Realme, and have been constrained to become bound to make appearance and give attendance before your Honourable Council, and in other places, and others of them have been therefore imprisoned, confined, and sundry other wayes molested and disquieted. And divers other charges have been laid and levied upon your people in severall Counties by divers Eschequiers, Deputy Eschequiers, Commissioners for the Sheriff, Justice of Peace, and others by Command or direction from your Maieſtie or your Honourable Council against the Lawes and free customes of the Realme. And whereas also by the Statute called the Great Charter of the Liberties of England, it is declared and enacted that noe freeman may be taken, or imprisoned, or be disseised of his freehold or liberties, or his free custome, or be outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, but by the lawful Judgement of his Peeres, or by the Lawe of the Land. And in the eighth and twentieth yeare of the reigne of King Edward the third, it was declared and enacted by authority of Parliament, That noe man of what estate or condition that he be, should be put out of his land, or tenements, nor taken, nor imprisoned, nor disseised, nor put to death, without being brought to answer by due processe of Lawe. Nevertheless against the tenor of the said Statute and other the good Lawes and Statute of this Realme it is that and provided, divers of your Subjects have of late been imprisoned, without any cause shewed, and when for their deliverance they were brought before your Justice, by your Maieſties writte of Habeas Corpus there to undergoe and receive of the Court should be order, and by the Court remanded to rectifie the cause of thier deteyne, noe cause was certified but that they were deteyned by your Maieſties speciall commandment shewed by the Court of your Honourable Council, and yet were returned back to severall prisons without being charged with any thing to which they might make answer according to the Lawe. And whereas of late divers Commissions of Soldiers and Murtherers have been directed into divers Counties of the Realme, and the inhabitants amongst them were compelled to receive them into their houses, and there to suffer them to sojourn against the Lawes and customes of this Realme, and to the greave grievance and vexation of the people. And whereas also by authority of Parliament in the five and twentieth yeare of the reigne of King Edward the third, it is declared and enacted, That noe man should be executed of life, or limb against the forme of the Great Charter and the Lawe of the Land. And by the said Great Charter and other the good Lawes and Statute of this Realme, noe man ought to be adjudged to death, but by the Lawes established in this Realme, either by the customes of the same Realme, or by Act of Parliament. And whereas necessaries of what kinde soever is exempted from the punishment to be used, and punishments to be inflicted by the Lawes and Statute of this Realme. Nevertheless of late time divers Commissions under your Maieſties Great Seale have issued forth, by which certayne persons have been assigned and appointed Commissioners with power and authority to proceede within by land according to the Justice of Marshall Lawe against such Soldiers or Murtherers, or other dissolute persons keeping with them, as should commit any murther, robbery, felony, mutiny, or other outrage or unpardonable whatsover, and by such summary way, and order as is annexed to Marshall Lawe, and as is also in use in time of warre, to proceede to the taking and condemnation of such offenders, and them to cause to be executed and put to death according to the Lawe Marshall. By which some of your Maieſties Subjects have been by some of the said Commissioners put to death, when, and where if by the Lawes and Statute of the Land they had deserved death, by the same Lawes and Statute also they might, and by noe other ought to have been judged and executed. And also sundry other persons offenders by rillour thereof, having an execution have escaped the punishment due to them by the Lawes and Statute of this Realme, by reason that divers of your Justices and Ministers of Justice have unjustly refused or forborne to proceede against such offenders according to the same Lawes and Statute, upon pretence that the said offenders were punishable only by Marshall Lawe, and by authority of such Commissioners as aforesaid. Which Commissions, and all other of like nature are wholly and directly contrary to the said Lawes and Statute of this Realme.

They do therefore humbly pray your most excellent Maieſtie That noe man hereafter be compelled to make or yield any such loane, benevolence, tax, or such like charge without common consent by Act of Parliament. And that none be called to make answer or take such oath, or to give attendance, or be confined, or otherwise molested, or disquieted concerning the same, or for refusal thereof. And that noe freeman in any such manner as is before mentioned be imprisoned or deteyned. And that your Maieſtie would be pleased to remove the said Soldiers and Murtherers, and that your people may not be soe burthened in time to come. And that the aforesaid Commissions for proceeding by Marshall Lawe may be revoked and annulled, and that hereafter noe Commissions of like nature may issue forth to any person or persons whatsoever to be executed as aforesaid, least by rillour of them any of your Maieſties Subjects be destroyed or put to death, contrary to the Lawes and franchises of the Land.

And they most humbly pray of your most excellent Maieſtie, as thier right and liberties according to the Lawes and Statute of this Realme. And that your Maieſtie would also be pleased to declare, that the Rewards, dones, and proceedings to the president of your people in any of the premises shall not be drawn hereafter into consequence or example. And that your Maieſtie would be also graciously pleased for the further comfort and safety of your people to declare your Royall will and pleasure, that in the thing aforesaid all your Justices and Ministers shall save you according to the Lawes and Statute of this Realme, as they owe the honor of your Maieſtie and the prosperity of this Realme.