

Lords' Petition (3 September 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 35331, f. 78r

78r

To the kings most excellent ma[jes]tie. 1640./ The humble petition of yo[u]r ma[jes]ties loyall and obediente subiectes whose names are under written, in the behalfe of themselues and diuerse others./

Most gracious Soueraigne

The sence of that dutie & service w[hi]ch wee owe unto yo[u]r sacred ma[jes]tie and o[u]r earnest affections to the good and welfare of this yo[u]r Realme of Englande, haue moved us in all humility to beseeche yo[u]r royall ma[jes]tie to giue us leave to offer to yo[u]r princely wisdom the app[re]hension that wee & other yo[u]r faithfull subiectes haue conceived of the greate distempers & dangers nowe thretninge the Churche and State, and yo[u]r Royall p[er]son, and of the fittest meanes by w[hi]ch they may bee removed & p[re]vented.

[*Left margin:*Evills./] The evils and dangers wherof yo[u]r ma[jes]tie may bee pleased to tak notice of are theise./

[*Left margin:*1.] That yo[u]r ma[jes]ties sacred p[er]son is exposed to hazzarde & danger in the p[re]sente expedition againste the [*Left margin:*2.3.] Scottishe army. & ². by occasion of this warre yo[u]r renewe is much wasted. 3 yo[u]r subiectes burthened w[i]th coate and conducte money, billitinge of souldiers, and diuerse rapines and disorders com [*Left margin:*4.] mitted in severall partes of this yo[u]r Realme by the souldiers raised for that service. 4. and yo[u]r whole [*Left margin:*5.] kingdome became full of feares and discontente./

[*Left margin:*6.] The sundry Innovations in matters of religion, the Oathe and Cannons lately imposed upon the Clergie and other yo[u]r ma[jes]ties subiectes.

[*Left margin:*7.] The greate increase of Popery, and the ymployinge of Popishe Recusantes and other yll affected to the [*Left margin:*8.] Religion by lawe established in places of power and truste, Espetially in com[m]aunding of men & armes both in the fiede and in sundry Counties of this yo[u]r Realme, Wheras by the lawes they are not permitted to haue armes in there owne howses.

[*Left margin*:9.] The greate mischeifes w[hi]ch may falll upon this kingdome yf the intentions (w[hi]ch haue bynn credibly reported) of bringinge Irishe and forraine forces shoulde take effecte./

[*Left margin*:10.] The vrginge of shippe money and prosecution of some Sherifes in the Starre chamber for not levyinge of yt.

[*Left margin*:11.] The heavy charge upon Marchandise to the discouragemente of Trade, the multitude of Monopolies & other [*Left margin*:12.] pattentes whereby the comodities & comforters of this kingdome are much burthened, to the greate & [*Left margin*:13.] uniu[er]sall grevance of yo[u]r people.

[*Left margin*:14.] The greate greife of yo[u]r subiectes by the longe intermission of parliam[en]tes and the late & former dissolvinge of such as haue bynn called w[i]thout the happie effects w[hi]ch otherwise they mighte haue produced.

[*Left margin*:Remedie] For Remedy wherof and p[re]vention of the dangers that maye ensue your Royall person, and to the whole State.

They doe in all humility and faithfulness beseeche yo[u]r most excellent ma[jes]tie that you woulde bee pleased to sumon a Parliam[en]t w[i]thin some shorte & conveniente tyme wherby the causes of theise and other greate grevances w[hi]ch yo[u]r people lye under may bee taken away, and the authors and Councillors of them may bee there broughte to such legall tryall and condigne punishm[en]t as the nature of the severall offences shall require, and the p[re]sente Warre may bee composed by yo[u]r ma[jes]ties wisdom w[i]thout bloude, in such manner as maye conduce to the hono[u]r and safety of yo[u]r ma[jes]ties p[er]son, the comforte of yo[u]r people, and the unitinge of both yo[u]r Realmes againste the com[m]on enemyes of the reformed Religion, And yo[u]r ma[jes]ties petitioners shall ever praye

Bedforde. [deade.] Hartforde. [synce m[ar]ques] [*Left margin*: Earles.] Essex. [lo: Chamberlaine.] Molgrave. Warwick. Bullingbrooke.

Say and Seale, [m[aste]r of the Wardes.] [*Left margin*: Vicountes.] Mandevill.

Brooke. [*Left margin*: Lords.] Howarde.

By the way in the Northe./

Rutlande. [*Left margin*: Earles.] Lincolne. Exeter.

Northe. Wylloubye. [*Left margin*: Lordes./] Savell. Wharton. Lovelace.

Stat: 27: Eliz: cap:1./

Other manuscript witnesses

- All Souls College, MS 125, ff. 89r–90r
- British Library, Additional MS 22959, ff. 65r–66r
- 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

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/LordsPetition1640v1.html>