

XX.—*Original Letter containing some account of the Parliament which met at Edinburgh the 26th June 1678, and of the Seizure of Sir Patrick Hume of Polwarth, Baronet.*

COMMUNICATED BY WILLIAM WARING HAY, ESQ. F.S.A. SCOT.

Edr. Julie 8. 1678.

SIR,—Its like you may think strange I have not writen sooner : the great interruption of letters has been my hinderance. To give you a plaine account of our Convention of Estates heer, I must tell you, that the Kinges Commissioner had all thinges so well ordered before our Countrey men came downe from London, that they became unnecessary members : many of the peers being at his devotion, upon pensiones, court benefites & expectationes, he had them engaged to be present ; of the other side many being excluded by a test, or declaration against the Covenant, the honest pairty now weak among the noblemen ; as for the gentlemen who represent the shires he had taken so great paines, that he had prevaled to get a few shires to elect according to his humor, & all the others he was sure to have double electiones in them even though 4 should elect 2 of their number as they did in some shires ; the burrowes he ordered pairtly by largesses, pairtly by threateninges, to choose such as he pleased : And thus the Convention, so constitute, met the 26^t of June the day appointed.

The honest pairty being very weak in the house by the gentlemen's being for the most pairt out by double electiones, which wer to be tryed by the house before they could be admitted : The other easily caried, debate what they could against it, to have the nameing of the Comitty for deciding electiones referred to the Comissioner : & this was in effect the carrying of the whole affaire, for that Committee, without regard of justice or reason,

rejected all the honest party, & approved all the contrary, & the Convention accordingly approved what they brought in by report: the whole Bishops wer unanimous, & the Officers of State & they wer so grosse as to cause above 14 members, against whom objections of incapacity wer given in by the Duke of Hamilton and other noblemen and gentlemen, who offered to prove what they alleadged instanter, to vote in approbation of the committees report; & so set the house according to their hearts desire.

The Duke of Hamilton debated the electiones earnestly, & the Erles of Perth Dumfries Roxburgh Hadinton Southesk Twedale & the Lord Bargeny, among the gentlemen Mr Fletcher of Saltoun, Mr MacDougal of Makerston Mr Pringle of Sticheil, & of the burrowes Sr Alexander Bruce of Bromhal only: Several of the gentlemen double elected debated their owne rights fully, especially Sr Patrick Howme of Polwart Sr John Cocheran of Ochiltree & Sr John Cunigame of Cambruchton; but to no purpose, reason had there no place: yet no point went away without full debate; which the vote never regarded but caried with the speat: and certainly all thinges will at this time goe as the Commissioner pleases, how & to what degree the countrey will endure their load God knowes: a particulare of the whole debates and maner of procedor in this Convention shall certainly be sent so soone as it is closed & up.

On Monday last Sir Patrick Howme before mentioned was taken out of his bed about 12 a clocke at night, by the Commissioners order, to the gaurd; & next morning conveyed by a company of foote with fired matches to the tolbooth of Edenbrugh, wher he is now closse prisoner, prohibite pen, inke, or paper, & none admitted to see or speak with him. Every one beleived the reason to be his stirring much among the members of Convention till it came to be talked, from the Commissioners house, that it was done for reason relateing to England, by the Kinges expresse order: All his papers found at his lodgeing wer seized upon, & a Troupe of dragoones sent to his house in the countrey, wher likewise all his papers wer searched

for letters or pamphlets, as their order did bear, but their was nothing found relateing or from any persone in England, not so much as a direction of a letter, or any thing that might look like correspondence; yet is he kept closse, & not his Lady allowed to see him: & its said that a servant of the Erle of Shaftesberies has reported to the King some wordes of high importance that he heard passe betwixt the Erle & Sr Patrick: others talke that Sir Richard Grame has vented & divulged some free discourse Sir Patrick had to him: and generally they say it was observed that, while he was at London, he frequented the company of disaffected persones: These who have heard Sir Patrick speak of the E. of Shaftesberry and Sir Rich^d. say, they are confident that these are not persons who would have treated off such thinges as are talked of with him or any body: that the Erle would not come under the danger of overhearing; and that Sir Richard would not betray whatever he could have from Sr Pat.

The Lord Tresurer depute & the Lord Advocate wer appointed to examine him on questiones about some listes, notes, and memorialls, relateing to the Convention, and billetes from some persones found about him in his pockets or closet. But Sir Patrick was so peremptory that he would not satisfy them in any one question, would not tell from whom the billets wer, the meaning of the notes, or any thing, still insisting on the maner and closse-ness of his imprisonment, desiring to know the cause, or els to be liberate, ansuering as to the papers that if they intended to found any thing upon them against him, it wer then time enough to ansuer questiones about them: but that he found not himself obliged to informe them in that maner, & caise; so they pairted displeased. I give you the fuller account of this, becaus I know his freinds their will desire to be informed anent him, though many heer are much troubled a person of his worth should be so badly used; yet all know that none could stand it out better then hie will doe.

J. C.

Let this be copied & closed up in a cleane paper, & sealed with a fancy seal, & directed with a good hand ffor Mr Robert Daniel at Mr Dodes haberdashers house, near Ware-