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A SHORT
DECLARATION

To the whole

K I R K
AND
K I N G D O M,

CONCERNING,
Present D A N G E R S and
D U T I E S.

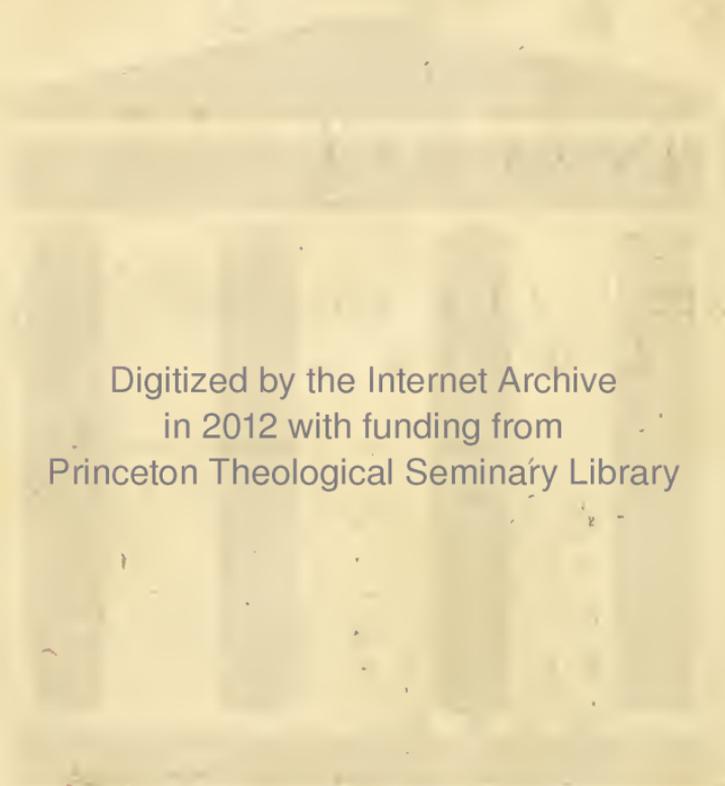


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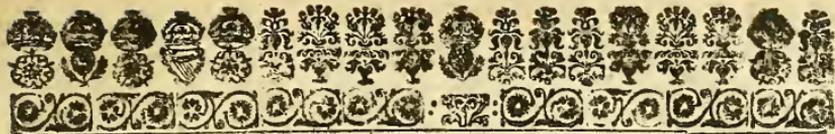
EDINBURGH,

Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the
Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1648.

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A short DECLARATION to the whole Kirk and Kingdom, concerning present Dangers and Duties:

Edinb. 9. September 1648. Antemeridiam.



Albeit the sad and dangerous condition wherein this Kirk and Kingdom is now cast, by the publick Resolutions and practises of these who have ingaged in War against the Kingdom of *England*, do proclaim unto all the lovers of Religion and the Countrey, what is needfull to be done in this day of distresse: Yet for the better information of the Lords people, we conceive it necessary, shortly for the present to declare what we hold incumbent in duty to all these who would not betray the cause of God, and render themselves slaves to the Tyrannie and lust of ungodly and Malignant men, hoping in a short time to make known our thoughts of these particulars more fully.

When the dis-affectèd and prevailing party in the Parliament of this Kingdom did manifest head-strong resolutions to make War upon *England*, under a pretext of suppressing Sectaries, But in effect, to dissolve the union

betwixt the Kingdoms, and to restore the King to the exercise of his Arbitrary Government, and make way for promoting of the Designes of the Malignant party in both Nations: Just and necessary desires relating unto the grounds of an ingagement, and unto the securing of Religion, were presented unto their Lordships by the Commission of the former Generall Assembly; But these desires were altogether slighted, and an ingagement resolved upon such grounds as are contrary to the Word of God, and do infer the breach of all the Articles of the Solemn League and Covenant, as is clearly holden forth in the Declaration of the last Generall Assembly; wherein also may be seen the great incroachments that are made upon the Liberties of the Kirk: Neither was there any regard had unto the dissent and Protestation of a considerable number of Members of Parliament, who had been most active and streight in the Cause from the beginning; nor unto the Petitions and Supplications of many Synods and Presbyteries, and of the wel-affected people of the Land, who were seeking satisfaction to their consciences: But instead of a satisfactory answer, the ingagement whilk was wickedly resolved, was violently carried on by most strange plundering and cruell oppression, especially of these who did declare it upon no other ground then out of fear to sin against God: And as though it had been too little to force obedience unto their unlawfull Resolutions and Acts, the Committee of Estates have urged and pressed the subscribing of a Band and Declaration of Parliament, wherein men are obliged to acknowledge the justice & equity of all the Acts, Conclusions & Resolutions

lutions thereof, or if they refuse, are to be esteemed enemies to Religion & their Country; And after that the Committee of Estates had lent such an Army unto *England*, as by the leaders thereof, was professed to be so considerable, as was sufficient to prosecute their resolutions in that Kingdome, without any further supply of forces from this; Yet they have resolved upon, and prosecuted a new levie, with no lesse violence, then the former that they may wreith the yoke of their oppression upon the necks of the Lords people, and bring the whole Kingdome in slavery and bondage. And though the Lord hath declared his wrath from heaven against these their resolutions and proceedings, by bringing their Army to so sudden and shamefull an overthrow; Yet do they still adhere unto, and persue the same designes, and have not onely brought within the bowells of this Kingdome, the remnant of that godlesse and prophane Army, but have given Comission also to classed incendiaries and Rebels who served under the conduct of *James Grahame* to raise forces, and by the whole tenour of their carriage, do make it appear to all who have eyes to see, that they do intend rather to involve the Kingdome in blood, then to be restrained in the persuite of their former wicked resolutions.

Therefore albeit the thoughts of peace be pretious unto us, and that we wish and exhort every one to follow Peace with all men, as much as is possible; Yet looking upon the eminent dangers that threaten Religion, the grievous oppressions that lies upon the Lords people in their consciences, persons, and estates, and the many fearfull evils, that threatens both Kirk and Kingdome

dome, if the remnant of these mens wrath be not restrained ; We conceive that all the people of God are obliged and ingaged by Covenant, with their lives and estates, to endeavour and persue these following ends, and to oppose all the enemies and adversaries thereof ;

1. Because Religion is of all things the most excellent & precious, the securing thereof is to be most in our thoughts, and in the endeavours of all men, that it may be preserved unto us, & transmitted unto our posteritie, in puritie. Secondly, All are bound to defend and maintain the liberties of the Kirk, which is the house of God, and the ground and pillar of truth. Thirdly, all are bound to vindicate the liberties of the subjects, in all these things which concern their consciences, persons, and estates. Fourthly, there is no lesse obligation, carefully to maintain the union betwixt the Kingdomes, and to avoid every thing that may weaken the same, or involve us in any measure of accession unto the guilt of these who have invaded the Kingdome of England. Fifthly, all are to endeavour the Kings Majesties restitution to the exercise of his Royall power, as soon as he shall give security for Religion, in the manner expressed in the desires of the late Comission of the Kirk, and shall give satisfaction in such other things as are necessary for the peace and safety of the Kingdom. Sixthly, all are to take a more effectual course then heretofore for punishing and suppressing of all Malignancy, injustice, iniquity, prophanesse and impiety, and to endeavour, that the best and fittest remedies be applied for taking away the causes of these evils, and advancing Religion and Righteousnesse in the Land, and that those men
who

who have been formerly instrumentall in our present miseries and calamities be not again admitted unto any such trust or power as may enable them to involve the Land in the same or the like evils.

These things are of such importance and consequence as that we know not what can be expected without them but a continuance and increase of our present miseries and calamities; And therefore seeing the Lord hath now put into the hands of his people such an opportunity, and made many willing in this day of his power. We do exhort and beseech all men throughout the land by the mercies of God who hath not given us over unto death, but left us a nail in his holy place, that they would seriously mind, and to the utmost of their power prefer these ends against all lets and impediments whatsoever, and oppose all these who stand for the engagement. In the beginning of this work the Lord stirred up the spirits of his people to joyne together and defend themselves against tyranny and oppression in these things which concerned their consciences and liberties; and albeit their power was but small, and the strength of adversaries great, yet because they did their duty in the simplicity of their hearts, and trusted in the name of the Lord, he was pleased to make the enemies melt as wax before the fire, and to vanish as smoke before the wind: And if after so many rich experiences of his assistance and rare testimonies of his loving kindnesse, and great deliverances out of troubles and solemne engagements by vows and Covenants, we should sit still, or comply with those who have carried on the engagement in a time that threatens so much danger unto Religion, and

and so imminent ruin to our liberties, persons, and estates,
we could not but be exceedingly guilty before the
Lord, and deserve to be plagued as betrayers of the
cause of God, and of the safety both of Kirk and State:
Let us therefore arise, and do our duty, and the Lord of
hosts who hath alreadie broken the power, and pride
of our adversaries, shall be with us.

A. Ker.

FINIS

