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NATIONAL

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An engraving of two royal busts, likely King James II and his daughter Mary II, shown in profile facing left. They have voluminous, curly hair. The busts are set against a bright yellow background.

Glorious Revolution

How did these events change the British Monarchy?

Key Stage 5 | Early modern 1485-1750

Lesson resource

Introduction

In early 1689, James II, King of England, Scotland, and Ireland, was deposed by Parliament and replaced by his daughter, Mary, and her husband, the Dutch prince William of Orange.

Since James II ascended the throne in 1685, he had fuelled the interconnected fears of Catholicism and arbitrary government within England, a deeply Protestant country. As a determined Catholic, James had granted Catholics many rights, including the freedom to worship openly, to hold public office, and even to be members of the privy council. His continuous use of the royal prerogative to achieve his own political and religious ends was central to his downfall.

In June 1688, James' second wife Mary of Modena gave birth to a son, destroying English hopes that Mary, the king's Protestant daughter, would ascend the throne after the death of James II. Instead, they faced the prospect of another Catholic king. This, combined with James II's continued authoritarian behaviour, led to several peers (the 'Immortal Seven') asking the Dutch prince William of Orange to invade England. On 5 November 1688, William arrived with his army on English shores.

In December 1688, James II fled to France. After being presented with the Declaration of Rights, which stressed the need for a contractual model of kingship and government, William and Mary accepted the throne on the 13 February 1689.

Use documents in this lesson to explore the causes of Glorious Revolution and its impact on the British monarchy. Also find out about the effects of the Glorious Revolution on Ireland and the American colonies.

Suitable for:

KS 5

Time period:

Early modern 1485-1750

Connections to the Curriculum:

Key Stage 5:

These documents can be used to support any of the exam board specifications covering the Stuarts, specifically the reign of James II, Glorious Revolution, and the reign of William III and Mary II.

AQA GCE History 'A' Level
Stuart Britain and the Crisis of Monarchy, 1603-1702

Edexcel GCE History 'A' Level
Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution, and settlement

OCR GCE History 'A' Level
The Making of Georgian Britain
1678-c.1760

Enquiry topic: The Glorious Revolution 1678-1689

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Teachers' notes

This lesson uses sources from The National Archives, in particular records from the State Papers and Colonial Office, to explore the Glorious Revolution.

Before starting, it would be useful to ensure that students are familiar with these key terms and ideas: Catholicism, absolutism, arbitrary government, contractual government, colonialism, and rebellion.

The first source that students examine comes from the State Papers. It was written on June 30th 1689 by the 'Immortal Seven'- Edward Russell, Henry Sidney, Lord Richard Lumley, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire, and Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby. This letter is momentous as it constitutes William of Orange's invitation to invade England and a guarantee of English support. The source extracts prompts students to consider the key motivations for writing this letter, and the relationship that is established between William and the nobility and church in England.

The second source is a printed document which outlines William's declared motives for arriving in England in 1689. This document assists students to outline the key issues that led up to the Glorious Revolution, and the prominence of religion as a central concern.

Next, students look at a printed pamphlet written by Elinor James (1644-1714), a printer and polemicist who earned the nickname 'the London City Godmother' for her prolific and outspoken political writing. In the pamphlets, Elinor supports James II and tries to persuade parliament of the king's virtue. She also warns parliament of the danger of James' removal, and scrutinizes William of Orange's actions and motivations. This source provides an opportunity to consider individuals who were sympathetic to James II at the time. This account is notable for being written and published by a woman, and can be a point of further discussion.

The fourth source is the Declaration of Rights, with the kings' answer, from 13 February 1689. Students can consider how the king and government's relationship is reframed in this document, and how it might represent a contractual or constitutional form of government. Students may also like to consider the nature of the document as a parchment roll, and challenges associated with the document's preservation.

The fifth sources relate to the Battle of the Boyne, William III's decisive victory in Ireland over James' forces in 1690. Source 6a is an account of William's expedition to Ireland, and encourages students to think about how William is characterised, and the tensions in the source between the claim to provide a historically factual version, and the content which is evidently partisan to William. It may invite broader questions as to how we can approach history objectively. Source 6b is a pictorial representation of the Battle of the Boyne. Students might like to consider how this is a form of propaganda, as a commemoration of William's victory.

Teachers' notes

The final sources relate to the consequences of the revolution within colonies in America. It invites students to consider how the Glorious Revolution was in fact a transatlantic phenomenon. Dependent on the colony, the transfer of power varied from a peaceful transition to civil war. Both of these sources largely focus on Leisler's Rebellion in New York, in which the colony's militia, led by notable Dutch inhabitants of the colony, detained the Jacobite government and appointed the German merchant Jacob Leisler as governor. The two sources come from opposing points of view. The first source is a letter from the deposed Jacobite governors, and the second source is written by an individual who supported Leisler's Rebellion. Students can consider the similarities and differences between these two sources.

You may want to split the lesson for students working individually or use the sources in paired/group work. Students should be encouraged to think about the limitations of looking at different forms of evidence to evaluate their understanding the Glorious Revolution.

All sources are transcribed, and some language is explained/translated in square brackets.

Finally, although this lesson is aimed at Key stage 5, teachers could use these documents and provide their own questions and/or create simplified transcripts to use with younger students.

Sources

- Illustration Image: Engraving printed by James Clark showing William and Mary Prince and Princess of Orange 1690. A large medal on a pedestal with busts of William III and Mary II in Roman style. 1690. © The Trustees of the British Museum. Shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) licence.
- Source 1: An extract from a letter sent to the Prince of Orange inviting him to become King of England, 30 June 1688. Catalogue ref: SP 8/1/224.
- Source 2: A printed handbill entitled 'Six Mature Articles', December 1688 - January 1689. Catalogue ref: SP 31/4/123.
- Source 3: An untitled, printed pamphlet by Elinor James, Nov 1688. Catalogue ref: SP 31/4/105
- Source 4: Enrolment of the Declaration of the 12 February of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons ['The Declaration of Rights'], with the king's answer. Catalogue ref: C 212/18/1
- Source 5a: Extracts from report entitled 'Relation of his Majesty's Expedition in Ireland and particularly of the Battle of the Boyne drawn out of Letters writ by Persons of Quality'. Catalogue ref: SP 8/11/11.
- Source 5b: Panoramic view of the Battle of the Boyne, and the victory of King William III, 1691, etching. Catalogue ref: MPH 1/34.
- Source 6a: Extracts from 'A letter concerning responses to the Glorious Revolution and the unrest in the colonies'. Catalogue ref: CO 5/1081 f.10-11.
- Source 6b: 'Memorial from New York on the replacement of Governor Nicholson with Governor Leisler', June 1690. Catalogue ref: CO 5/1081 f.377-8.

Background

The Glorious Revolution of 1688-89 replaced James II with the joint monarchy of his daughter Mary and her Dutch husband, William of Orange, both Protestants. James II's behaviour from his ascension to the crown in 1685 suggested Catholic absolutism, which aroused fear in England, a deeply Protestant country. While James II's determination to impose an authoritarian form of government was gently resisted, there were two key factors that urged a group of English peers (the Immortal Seven) to contact the Dutch prince William of Orange. The birth of James II's son, James Edward Stuart, on 10 June 1688, scuppered hopes that James II's protestant daughter Mary might soon occupy the throne. Secondly, the peers feared that James would revoke the Test Acts, which barred Catholics from public office.

William of Orange was well prepared. Despite his declared motivations for invading England as a merciful crusade, he had other pragmatic and political reasons to intervene. He was aware the Dutch Republic was under threat from the French King Louis XIV and wanted to further an English alliance to prevent the expansion of the French Empire.

Helped along by the 'Protestant wind', William landed at Torbay on 5 November 1688 with a substantial army. When he arrived, anti-Catholic riots broke out across the nation. Despite his initial control of capital, and a standing army of 53,000 men, James II fled London in December. He was captured by Kent fishermen near Sheerness, but was kept under purposefully light guard, and successfully fled the country on the 23 December. The path was now clear for William and Mary to take the throne. However, before they did so, a 'Convention Parliament' was held on 22 January 1689, where the details of the Declaration of Rights, later formalised in law as the Bill of Rights, was discussed and agreed. The Declaration of Rights was a pragmatic agreement that enshrined a constitutional form of monarchy in England, in which the principles of royal succession were abandoned, and the king was fiscally shackled to parliament, changing the face of the British monarchy irrevocably.

The revolution had far reaching consequences beyond England, as this lesson demonstrates. In Ireland and Scotland, the revolution was not, as the Whig historians would call it, 'bloodless'. In both countries, it was religiously and politically divisive. William III's expedition to Ireland and the Battle of the Boyne is a key example of Anglo-Irish conflict in the 1690s. The Irish were subject to the rule of Anglo-Irish landed gentry and an unpopular Episcopal church, cementing an Anglo-Irish resentment and hatred that would become entrenched in centuries to come.

The Glorious Revolution was also a transatlantic phenomenon, as American colonies experienced political unrest and the uneasy transfer of power. New York is a notable example. Originally founded as a Dutch colony, New York was actually allocated to James II as a proprietor when the English took it from the Dutch in 1664 and he was Duke of York (hence the name), so he had a longstanding relationship with the colony. In 1688 New York was not homogenously British, but was also home to the Dutch, French Huguenots, indigenous peoples, and a small Black population. The overthrow of the Jacobite

Background

government in New York and the establishment of the Dutch captain Jacob Leisler as the Governor of New York was the start of a significant political fracture in the colony. Some believed Leisler acted in William and Mary's best interests to maintain stability in New York, while those against Leisler accused him of arbitrary and unprincipled behaviour. Eventually, Leisler was executed in 1691 for treason. The period entrenched existing divisions between the English and Dutch population in the colony, which would fester even beyond the American Revolution (1775-1783).

Tasks

Task 1

Source 1: An extract from a letter sent from the 'Immortal Seven' to the Prince of Orange inviting him to become King of England, 30 June 1688. Catalogue ref: SP 8/1/224.

This extract comes from a document that was written in June 1688. This letter was written by a group that later became known as the 'Immortal Seven'. This included: Edward Russell, Henry Sidney, Lord Richard Lumley, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire, and Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby. In this letter, they invite William of Orange to invade England and promise that they will support him when he arrives.

- Why do the writers of this letter ask William to invade England? Find specific evidence from the source to support your point.
- How do the writers reassure William that he will be supported in England?

This letter was written by a group that later became known as the 'Immortal Seven'. This included: Edward Russell, Henry Sidney, Lord Richard Lumley, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire, and Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby.

- How representative of the English people would you describe this group?
- The writers discuss their 'religion, liberties, and properties'. What are they referring to?

Task 2

Source 2: A printed handbill entitled: 'Six Mature Articles', December 1688 - January 1689. Catalogue ref: SP 31/4/217

This document outlines William's motives for coming to England, and the specific object of his expedition.

James Francis Edward Stuart (1688-1766) was born to James II (1633-1701) and his second wife, Mary of Modena (1658-1718) on 10 June 1688. His birth was a subject of national controversy.

- What does it suggest about the specific objects of William's expedition?
- Who might the 'imposter' be?
- Which King is alleged to be murdered?
- Why do you think William declared his aim that the 'Kings Murtherers be brought to trial'?
- What is the writer's view on Catholics? What might 'all places of Trust' refer to?
- Why is this printed handbill been produced? What does this suggest about the nature of the source?

Tasks

Task 3

Source 3: An untitled, printed pamphlet by Elinor James (c1645-1781), November 1688.
Catalogue ref: SP 31/4/201

This pamphlet, published in late 1688, is an Address to the House of Lords.

Elinor James wrote over ninety pamphlets on different political, religious or commercial matters. She commented on the Glorious Revolution, the Union of England and Scotland in 1707 and the Jacobite uprising of 1715. She opposed the coronation of William III. She was imprisoned and fined in 1689 for publishing a pamphlet declaring his reign to be illegitimate.

- What techniques of persuasion are used to appeal to the Lords addressed in the pamphlet?
- What is her opinion of James II in this pamphlet?
- How are William of Orange motivations for coming to England presented?
- What can we infer about the writer's political and religious views in the pamphlet?
- This document is printed, but it reads like a personal letter. What might this reveal about the document's audience and circulation at the time?
- Elinor James is the author of this pamphlet. How does this challenge our understanding of who was allowed to enter the political and literary sphere in England in the seventeenth century?
- Find out more about Elinor James and other women involved in the events of the Glorious Revolution.

Task 4

Sources 4a-c: Extracts from the enrolment of the Declaration of the 12 February of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons [the 'Declaration of Rights'], with the king's answer. Catalogue ref: C 212/18/1

This document is the Declaration of Rights, also known as the Bill of Rights, which was created by the English Parliament in February 1689. It established the rights of the English citizens and the responsibilities of the monarchy.

The Ecclesiastical Commission was an English court of enquiry set up by James II in July 1686. It was given jurisdiction over the governance of the Church of England and allowed to try offences punishable under church law. It was designed to remove any opposition to James II's religious policy favouring a return to Catholicism.

- In your opinion, what are the three most important reasons given for James II's overthrow?

Tasks

- The document states: 'he said late King James the Second having abdicated the government and the throne being thereby vacant'. Is this accurate? Why might the word 'abdicated' be used here?
- How is the monarchy's power limited through this bill?
- In what ways does this bill protect the rights of English citizens?
- What role does religion play in this bill?
- How does the document represent a compromise between king and parliament?
- What challenges does this document present to researchers being a fragile, parchment roll?
- What measures can be put in place to protect this document?

Task 5

Source 5a: Extracts from a report entitled 'Relation of his Majesty's Expedition in Ireland and particularly of the Battle of the Boyne drawn out of Letters writ by 'Persons of Quality'. Catalogue ref: SP 8/11/11 f21& f39

This document provides a substantial account of William of Orange's expedition in Ireland and the Battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690. When William arrived in England in 1689, James II fled to France. However, he was determined to take up the conflict in Ireland, arriving in the country in March 1689. James II was supported by a population who were largely Catholic. An army sent by William III arrived in Ireland in August 1689 to regain control. Fighting ensued until the Battle of the Boyne, after which James fled from Ireland, and William consolidated his rule there in the following twelve months. Historically, the Battle of the Boyne has been seen as a decisive moment in Irish history that secured the domination of Anglican Protestantism in Ireland.

Source 5b: Panoramic view of the Battle of the Boyne, and the victory of King William III, 1691, etching. Catalogue ref: MPH 1/34.

- What was the Gazette? Find out when it was established.
- What reasons does the writer provide for writing this document?
- In what circumstances does the writer claim this account was written?
- The writer mentions historical figures 'heightened by any of the strokes of art'. What does he mean by this?
- What are there any tensions or contradictions in the writer's declaration to provide an unvarnished account of events in Ireland and the way the William III is described?
- In our study of history, how does narrative or storytelling complicate a search for objectivity?

This etching was made by Dirck Maas, William III's official Dutch battle painter, who was present with William at the Battle of the Boyne. Published by Edward Cooper, 1791.

Tasks

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- How is the Battle of the Boyne depicted in this image?
- Why do you think William III commissioned this image?
- What is the value of this document for finding out about this battle/
- Find out more about the Battle of the Boyne from the National Army Museum.

Task 6

Source 6a: Extracts from a 'Letter concerning responses to the Glorious Revolution and the unrest in the colonies', May 15 1689. Catalogue ref: CO 5/1081 f.10-11

Events in England impacted the colonies in the Americas. The consequences of the Glorious Revolution varied in each colony from a peaceful transfer of power to civil war, as royal governors previously appointed by James II were replaced by new representatives who were loyal to William III. This letter is written by the governors in New York who had been loyal to James II.


- What concerns the writers of this letter?
 - What has happened in the American colonies?
 - How are the French characterised in this letter?
 - What does this suggest about Anglo-French relations in the colonies in this period?
- The letter refers to tensions between the English, French, and indigenous peoples [the Iroquois] in the colonies.
- Why is it important to consider what is missing from these extracts describing contact between indigenous peoples and European colonists?
 - The document comes from the Colonial Office collection. Why does The National Archives hold these records?

Source 6b: Document entitled: 'Memorial from New York on the replacement of Governor Nicholson with Governor Leisler', June 1690. Catalogue ref: CO 5/1081 f.377-8.

- According to the source, why has Francis Nicholson been replaced?
- How was the Dutchman Jacob Leisler to replace Nicholson as governor of New York?
- How did the former government in the colony react to Leisler's appointment?
- How is the former government official presented in this letter?
- What insights does this letter provide into tensions between the English, French, and indigenous peoples [the Iroquois] in the colonies?
- What are the similarities and differences between Source 6a and Source 6b? Are there any contradictions in how the old and new colonial governments are described?

Source 1: Letter sent to the Prince of Orange inviting him to become King of England, 30 June 1688. Catalogue Ref: SP 8/1/224

time and of the difficulties which appear to us, as to the first, the people are so generally dissatisfied with the present conduct of the Government in relation to their Religion, Liberty and Property, all which have been greatly invaded, and they are in such expectation of their prospects, being day by day, that your H^y. may be assured, there are nineteen parts of twenty of the people throughout the Kingdom, who are desirous of a change,

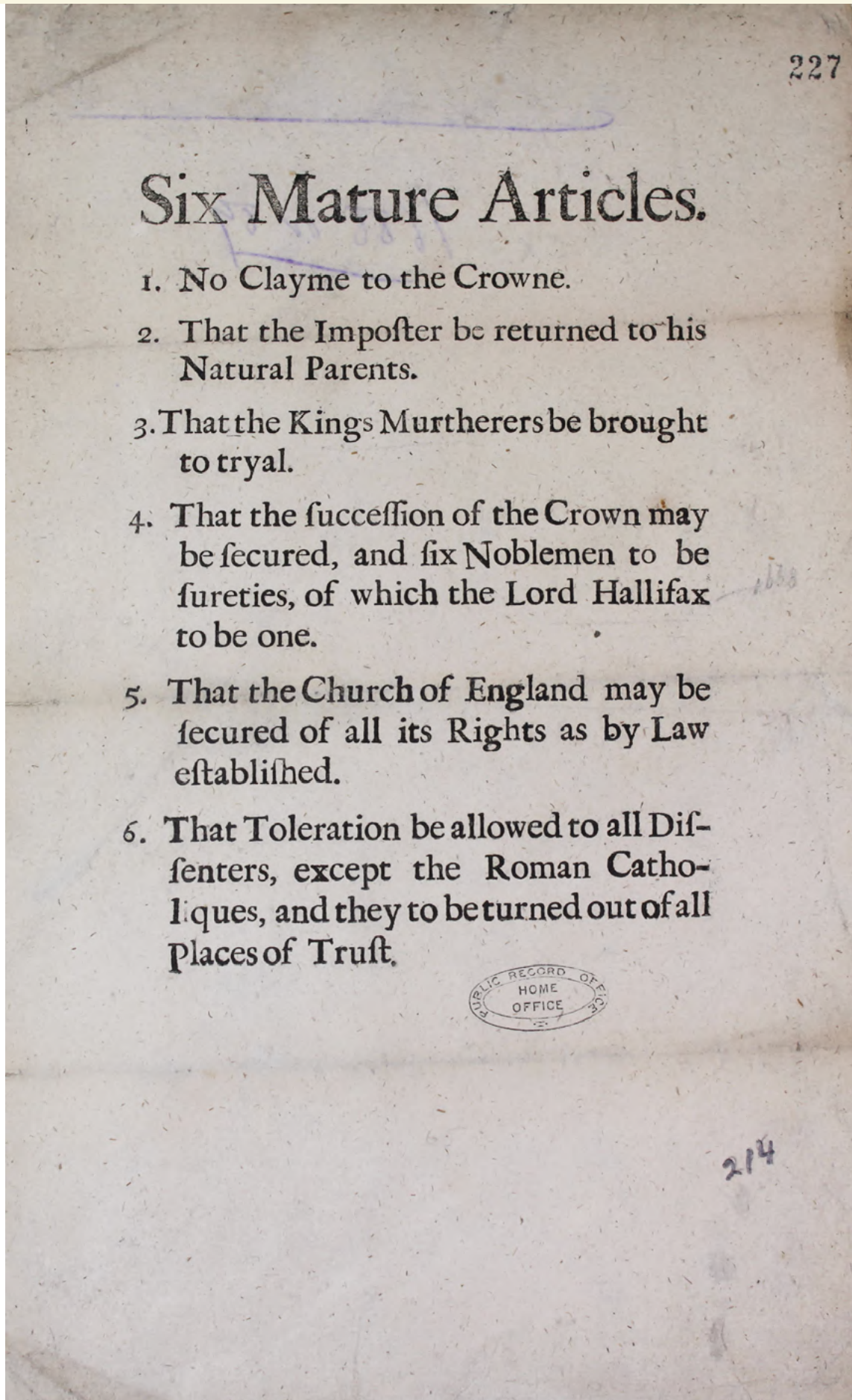
4 June 30 1688 224

 We have great satisfaction to find by 35, and since by other Instruments that your H^y. is so ready, and willing to give us such assistance as they have related to us. We have great reason to believe we shall be every day in a worse condition than we are, and less able to defend our selves, and therefore we do earnestly wish, we might be so happy as to find a remedy before it be too late for us to contribute to our own deliverance but although these be our wishes yet we do not wish by no means put your H^y. into any expectations which may misguide your own thoughts in this matter, so that the best advice we can give is to inform your H^y. truly, both of the State of things, here at this

Transcript: Source 1

June the 30th 1688

We have great satisfaction to find by 35, and since by M. Zulestein, that your Highness is so ready and willing to give us such assistances as they have related to us. We have great reason to believe that we shall be every day in a worse condition than we are and less able to defend ourselves, and therefore we do earnestly wish we might be so happy as to find a remedy before it be too late for us to contribute to our own deliverance; but although these be our wishes yet we will by no means put your Highness into any expectations which may misguide your own counsels in this matter, so that the best advice we can give is to inform your Highness truly both of the state of things here at this time and of the difficulties which appear to us. As to the first, the people are so generally dissatisfied with the present conduct of the Government in relation to their religion, liberties, and properties (all which have been greatly invaded), and they are in such expectation of their prospects being daily worse that your Highness may be assured there are nineteen parts of twenty of the people throughout the Kingdom who are desirous of a change[...]

Source 2: Printed handbill entitled: 'Six Mature Articles', Dec 1688-Jan 1689. Catalogue Ref: SP 31/4/217

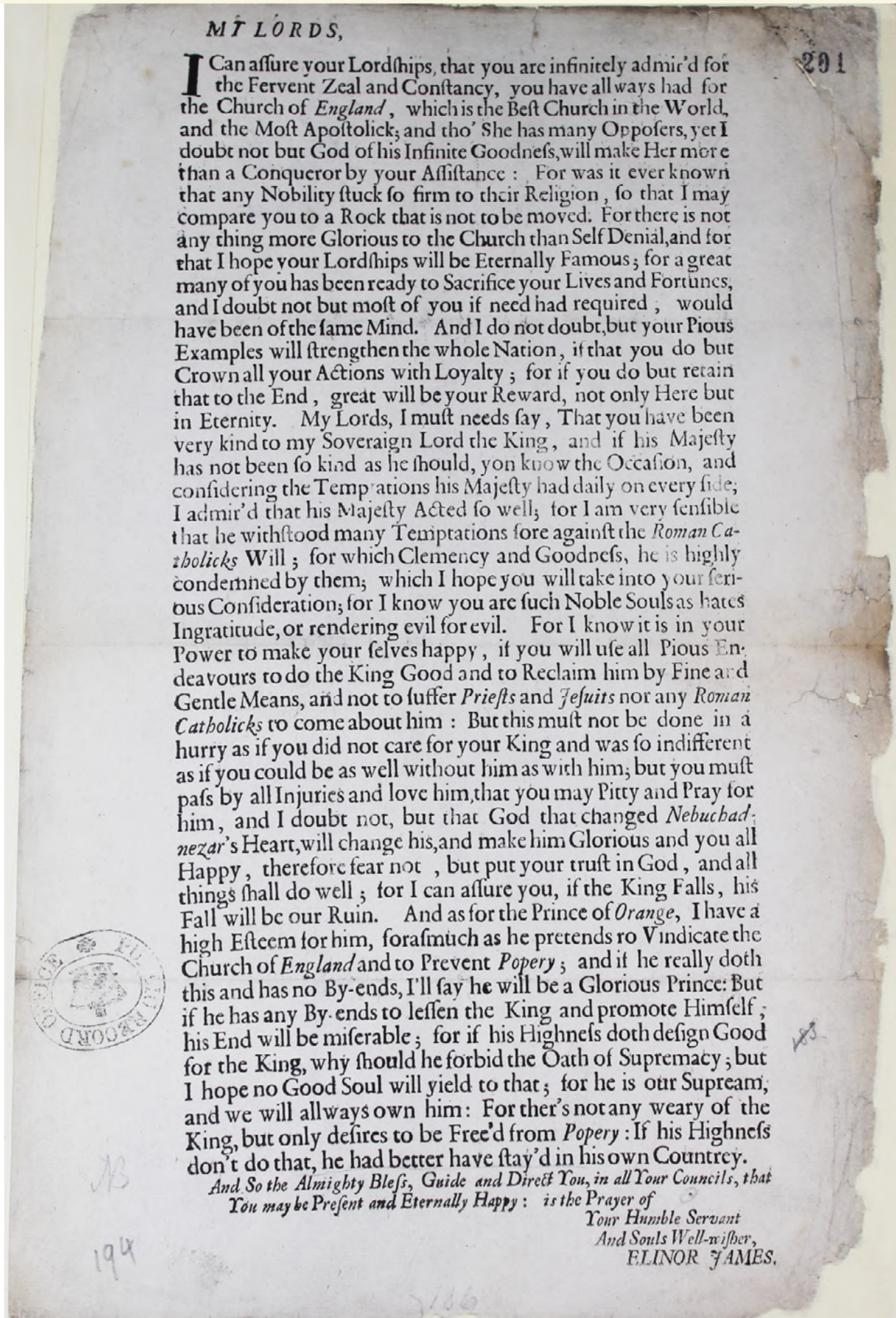


Transcript: Source 2

Six Mature Articles

1. No Clayme [Claim] to the Crowne
2. That the Imposter be returned to his Natural Parents
3. That the King's Murtherers [Murderers] be brought to trial
4. That the succession of the Crown may be secured, and six Noblemen to be sureties, [legal guarantors] of which the Lord Halifax to be one.
5. That the Church of England may be secured of all its Rights as by Law established.
6. That Toleration be allowed to all Dissenters, except the Roman Catholics, and they to be turned out of all places of Trust.

Source 3: Untitled, printed pamphlet by Elinor James c1645-1781),
November 1688. Catalogue Ref: SP 31/4/201



Transcript: Source 3

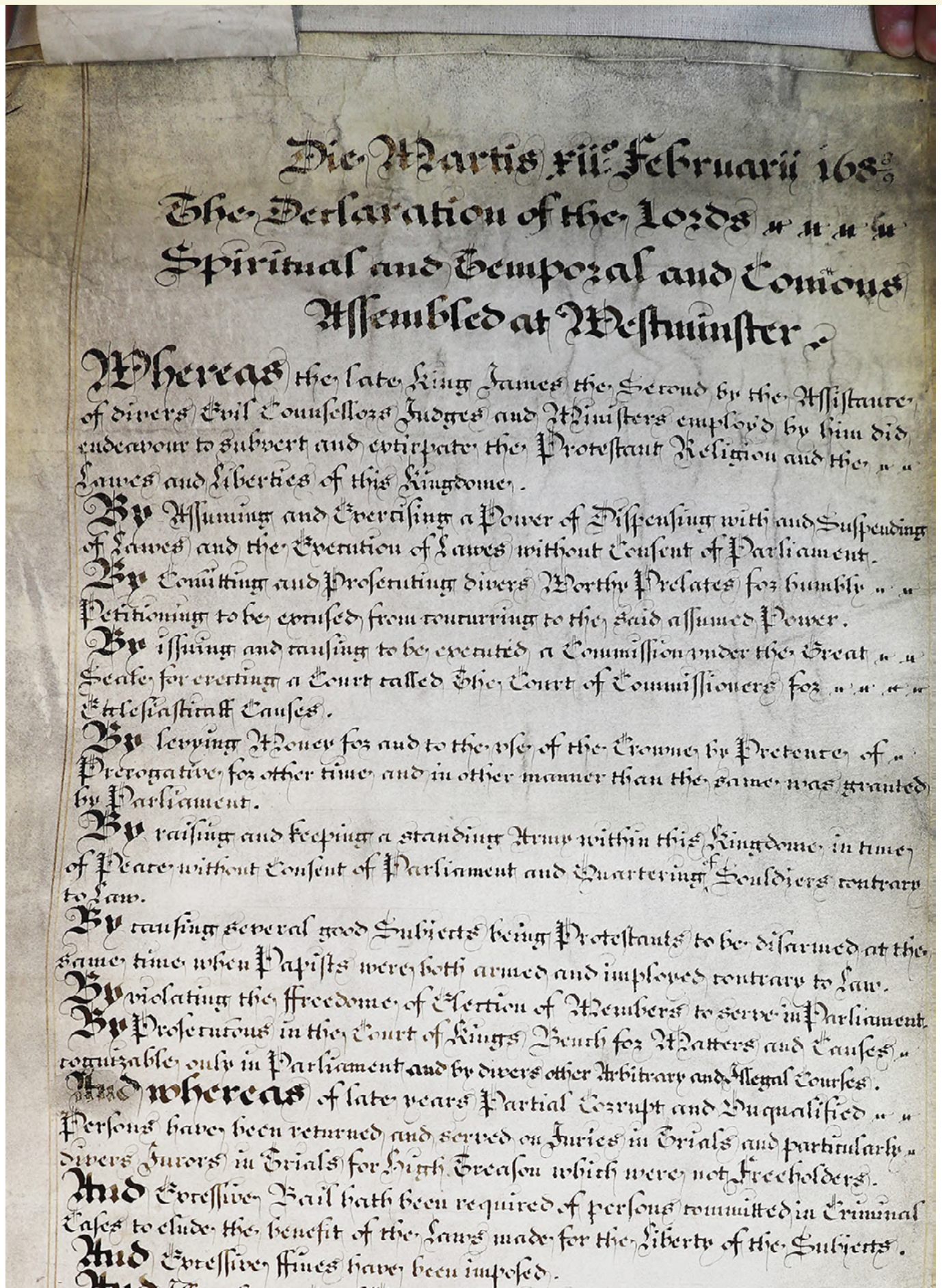
My Lords,

I can assure your Lordships, that you are infinitely admired for the fervent zeal and constancy, you have always had for the Church of England, which is the Best Church in the World, and the most apostolic; and though she has many opposers, yet I doubt not but God of his infinite Goodness, will make her more than a conqueror by your assistance: For it was ever known that any Nobility stuck so firm to their Religion, so that I may compare you to a Rock that is not to be moved. For there is not anything more glorious to the Church then self-denial, and for that I hope your Lordships will be eternally famous, for a great many of you has been ready to sacrifice your lives and fortunes, and I doubt not but most of you if need had required, would have been of the same mind. And I do not doubt, but your pious examples will strengthen the whole nation, if that you do but crown all your actions with loyalty; for if you do but retain that to the end, great will be your reward, not only here but in eternity. My Lords, I must needs say, that you have been very kind to my sovereign Lord the King, and if his Majesty has not been so kind as he should, you know the occasion, and considering the temptations his Majesty had daily on every side, I admired that his Majesty acted so well; for I am very sensible that he withstood many temptations sore against the Roman Catholic's will; for which clemency and goodness, he is highly condemned by them; which I hope you will take into your serious consideration; for I know you are such noble souls as hates ingratitude, or rendering evil for evil. For I know it is in your power to make yourselves happy, if you will use all pious endeavours to do the King good and to reclaim him by fine and gentle means, and not to suffer priests and Jesuits nor any Roman Catholics to come about him: but this must not be done in a hurry as if you did not care for your king and was so indifferent as if you could be as well without him as with him; but you must pass by all injuries and love him, that you may pity and pray for him, and I doubt not, but that god that changed Nebuchadnezzar's heart, will change his, and make him glorious and you all happy, therefore fear not, but put your trust in God, and all things shall do well; for I can assure you, if the king falls, his fall will be our ruin. And as for the Prince of Orange, I have a high esteem for him, for as much as he pretends to vindicate the Church of England and to prevent Popery; and if he really doth this and has no by-ends, I'll say he will be a glorious prince; but if he has any by-ends to lessen the king and promote himself; his end will be miserable; for if his highness doth design good for the king, why should he forbid the Oath of Supremacy; but I hope no good soul will yield to that; for he is our supreme and we will always own him: for there's not any weary of the king, but only desires to be freed from popery: if his highness don't do that, he had better have stayed in his own country.

And so the Almighty bless, guide and direct you, in all your councils, that you may be present and eternally happy: is the prayer of our humble Servant

Source 4a: The 'Declaration of Rights', with the king's answer.

(Extract 1/3) Catalogue Ref: C 212/18/1



Transcript: Source 4a

Die Martis xii Februarii 1689 [On Tuesday 12th February 1689]

The Declaration of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons Assembled at Westminster

Whereas the late King James the Second, by the assistance of divers [several] evil counsellors, judges and ministers employed by him, did endeavour to subvert and extirpate [destroy] the Protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this Kingdom:

By assuming and exercising a power of dispensing with and suspending of laws and the execution of laws without consent of Parliament.

By committing and prosecuting divers worthy prelates [bishops] for humbly petitioning to be excused from concurring to the said assumed power.

By issuing and causing to be executed a commission under the great seal for erecting a court called the Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes.

By levying money for and to the use of the Crown by pretence of prerogative [right] for other time and in other manner than the same was granted by Parliament.

By raising and keeping a standing army within this kingdom in time of peace without consent of Parliament, and quartering soldiers contrary to law.

By causing several good subjects being Protestants to be disarmed at the same time when papists were both armed and employed contrary to law.

By violating the freedom of election of members to serve in Parliament.

By prosecutions in the Court of King's Bench for matters and causes cognizable only in Parliament, and by divers other arbitrary and illegal courses.

And whereas of late years partial corrupt and unqualified persons have been returned and served on juries in trials, and particularly divers jurors in trials for high treason which were not freeholders;

And excessive bail hath been required of persons committed in criminal cases to elude the benefit of the laws made for the liberty of the subjects.

And excessive fines have been imposed.

Source 4b: The 'Declaration of Rights', with the king's answer.

(Extract 2/3) Catalogue Ref: C 212/18/1

And Illegal and Cruel Punishments inflicted.
 And several Grants and Promises made, of fines and forfeitures before
 any Conviction or Judgment against the Persons upon whom the same were
 to be levied.
 All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Lawes and
 Statutes and Freedome of this Realme.
 And whereas the said late King James the Second having
 Abdicated the Government and the Throne being thereby vacant.
 His Highnesse the Prince of Orange (whom it hath
 pleased Almighty God to make the Glorious Instrument of delivering
 this Kingdome from Popery and Arbitrary Power) did by the Advice of
 the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and divers principal Persons of the
 Commonsaunce Letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal
 being Protestants and other Letters to the several Counties Cities Universities
 Burroughs and Cinque Ports for the choosing of such Persons to represent
 them as were of Right to be sent to Parliament to meet and sit at Westminster
 upon the Two and Twentieth day of January in this yeare One Thousand
 six hundred eighty eight in order to such an Establishment as that their
 Religion Lawes and Liberties might not again be in danger of being subverted
 Upon which Letters Elections having been accordingly made.
 And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons
 pursuant to their respective Letters and Elections being now assembled in a
 full and free Representative of this Nation taking into their most serious
 Consideration the best means for attaining the Ends aforesaid Do in the
 first place (as their Ancestors in like Case have usually done) for the
 Vindicating and Asserting their antient Rights and Liberties Declare.
 That the pretended Power of Suspending of Lawes or the Execution of
 Lawes by Regal Authority without Consent of Parliament is illegal.
 That the

Transcript: Source 4b

And illegal and cruel punishments inflicted.

And several grants and promises made of fines and forfeitures before any conviction or judgment against the persons upon whom the same were to be levied.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known laws and statutes and freedom of this realm.

And whereas the said late King James the Second having abdicated the government and the throne being thereby vacant, his Highness the Prince of Orange (whom it hath pleased Almighty God to make the glorious instrument of delivering this kingdom from popery and arbitrary [unrestrained] power) did (by the advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and divers principal persons of the Commons) cause letters to be written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal being Protestants, and other letters to the several counties, cities, universities, boroughs and cinque ports, for the choosing of such persons to represent them as were of right to be sent to Parliament, to meet and sit at Westminster upon the two and twentieth day of January in this year one thousand six hundred eighty and eight [old style date], in order to such an establishment as that their religion, laws and liberties might not again be in danger of being subverted, upon which letters elections having been accordingly made.

And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, pursuant [following] to their respective letters and elections, being now assembled in a full and free representative of this nation, taking into their most serious consideration the best means for attaining the ends aforesaid, do in the first place (as their ancestors in like case have usually done) for the vindicating and asserting their ancient rights and liberties declare

That the pretended [false] power of suspending the laws or the execution of laws by regal authority without consent of Parliament is illegal.

Source 4c: The 'Declaration of Rights', with the king's answer. (Extract 3/3) Catalogue Ref: C 212/18/1

That the pretended Power of dispensing with Laws or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority as it hath been assumed and exercised of late is illegal.

That the Commission for erecting the late Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes and all other Commissions and Courts of the like nature are illegal and pernicious.

That levying of money for or to the use of the Crown by pretence of Prerogative without Grant of Parliament for longer time or in other manner than the same is or shall be granted is illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subjects to Petition the King and all Commitments and Prosecutions for such Petitioning are illegal.

That the raising or keeping a standing Army within the Kingdom in time of Peace unless it be with Consent of Parliament is against Law.

That the Subjects which are Protestants may have Arms for their defence suitable to their Condition and as allowed by Law.

That Elections of Members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the Freedom of Speech and Debates or Proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament.

That Excessive Bail ought not to be required nor excessive Fines imposed nor cruel and unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly empannelled and returned and Jurors which passe upon men in Trials for High Treason ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular persons before Conviction are illegal and void.

And that for redresse of all Grievances and for the amending strengthening and preserving of the Lawes Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do claime demand and insist upon all and singular the Premises as their undoubted Rights and Liberties and that no Declarations Judgments Doings or Proceedings to the prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into Consequence or Example.

So which Demand of their Rights they are particularly encouraged by the Declaration of his Highnesse the Prince of Orange as being the only means for obtaining a full redresse and remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence that his said Highnesse the Prince of Orange will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by Him and will still preserve them from the violation of their Rights which they have here asserted and from all other Attempts upon their Religion Rights and Liberties

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons assembled at Westminster do resolve.

That William and Mary Prince and Princess of Orange be and be declared King and Queen of England France and Ireland and the Dominions thereto belonging So hold the Crowne and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions to them the said Prince and Princess during their lives and the Life of the Survivor of them.

And that the sole and full Exercise of the Regal Power be only in and executed by the said Prince of Orange in the name of the said Prince and Princess during their joynt lives And after their Deceases the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions to be to the Heires of the Body of the said Princess and for default of such Issue to the Princess Ann of Denmark and the Heires of her Body And for default of such Issue to the Heires of the Body of the said Prince of Orange.

And the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons do pray the said Prince and Princess of Orange to accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mentioned be taken by the said Prince and Princess of Orange.

Transcript: Source 4c

That the pretended power of dispensing with laws or the execution of laws by regal authority, as it hath been assumed and exercised of late, is illegal.

That the commission for erecting the late Court of Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes, and all other commissions and courts of like nature, are illegal and pernicious.

That levying money [raising taxes] for or to the use of the Crown by pretence of prerogative, without grant of Parliament, for longer time, or in other manner than the same is or shall be granted, is illegal.

That it is the right of the subjects to petition the king, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal.

That the raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament, is against law.

That the subjects which are Protestants may have arms for their defence suitable to their conditions and as allowed by law.

That election of members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament.

That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

That jurors ought to be duly impanelled [selected] and returned, and jurors which pass upon men in trials for high treason ought to be freeholders.

That all grants and promises of fines and forfeitures of particular persons before conviction are illegal and void.

And that for redress of all grievances, and for the amending, strengthening and preserving of the laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do claim, demand and insist upon all and singular the premises as their undoubted rights and liberties, and that no declarations, judgments, doings or proceedings to the prejudice of the people in any of the said premises ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into consequence or example:

To which demand of their rights they are particularly encouraged by the declaration of his Highness the prince of Orange as being the only means for obtaining a full redress and remedy therein.

Transcript: Source 4c (cont.)

Having therefore an entire confidence that his said Highness the prince of Orange will perfect the deliverance so far advanced by him, and will still preserve them from the violation of their rights which they have here asserted, and from all other attempts upon their religion, rights and liberties.

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons assembled at Westminster do resolve

That William and Mary, Prince and Princess of Orange, be and be declared king and queen of England, France and Ireland and the dominions thereunto belonging, to hold the crown and royal dignity of the said kingdoms and dominions to them, the said prince and princess, during their lives and the life of the survivor to them, and that the sole and full exercise of the regal power be only in and executed by the said prince of Orange in the names of the said prince and princess during their joint lives, and after their deceases the said crown and royal dignity of the same kingdoms and dominions to be to the heirs of the body of the said princess, and for default of such issue to the Princess Anne of Denmark and the heirs of her body, and for default of such issue to the heirs of the body of the said Prince of Orange.

And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons do pray the said prince and princess to accept the same accordingly.

Source 5a: Report: Relation of his Majesty's Expedition in Ireland and particularly of the Battle of the Boyne... Catalogue Ref: SP 8/11/11 f21& f39

that word which is now ever so common, that we have no inconvenience of his army's consisting of
Campania, the King found no inconvenience of his army's consisting of
four great nations, & the that was a great error of past days
several months yet there was not the least tendency to military anarchy
any of them nor were there any animosities or exultations enough to
accept that noble end of trying who could sign the kindest motto.
The English & the Dutch as the two great forces the equal allies
in the glory of all that was done, & the

being too proud of many things, & to complain of their Prince, who was none that exceeded all modes
so much as the King himself, who thought he could never offend
through all the notions that his army made, & therefore lay a duty
great or a conquest that was without all manner of danger. He came to Waterloo
all night every where in every place of danger. He came to Waterloo
on the first of September & gave orders for the disposing of his army
into quarters in such a method as might best cover the Coalition from
the inroads of the Rebels, & he settled his plan on the 2nd of Sept.
Government as the greatest emergency of things required, which being
done he set sail for Dunkirk on the 3rd of September at 4 of
the afternoon, & the next day by 7 in the evening he happily
landed in England where he was received all along as he passed through
on his way to London with all the acclamations of joy & welcome
that dutiful subjects could offer to so great & so glorious a Prince.

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[illegible]

Transcript: Source 5a

Relation of his Majesty's Expedition in Ireland and particularly of the Battle of the Boyne drawn out of Letters writ by Persons of Quality and Credit.

The Gazette have given the Nation an account of the progress of his Majesties arms in Ireland, and there has been a particular relation of that action at the river of the Boyne published by authority: but many have desired to see all that laid together, which was parcelled but in the gazette, and all man observed the defectiveness of the printed relation of that great victory, I have therefore thought it might be of some service to the public to set this whole matter in one full and true light. The common relations of actions where princes are in person, are generally employed in setting forth the share that they had in them, and in making everything that past depend and turn upon that: this made all people observe with wonder, and not without some indignation, that in action, whose history is a panegyric [public speech of praise] of him that conducted it beyond all, that eloquence or flattery can invent, was related in such a manner, as if in reverse to the extravagant vanity of counterfeit hero's for whom all things are raised far above their true value, the design had been to x one of the greatest things that is in history. When the Earl of Portland who ordered that relation to be drawn was asked by Sir Robert Southwell, if he thought he has done the king right in setting out that part which he acted in it, as it ought to be soe answered, he was very sensible that it was extremely defective there: but he could not help that, the king would not endure it otherwise. He hoped therefore that others would do the King right, though he who was bound to obey his commands was not suffered to do it.

When courage rips out of fierce and violent passions, it is often both proud and cruel, but when it springs from a divine and truly heroical temper, and has its last finishing, it is accompanied both with clemency and modesty. He that does the greatest things that humans nature can rise up to, feeds in himself the pleasure of having done them to so high a degree that he wants nothing and indeed can receive nothing from praise and applause, whereas he that have not a greatness of soul, equal to that of their fortune court the selfe appearances of courage that does not belong to them.

The chief design in publishing this is to let the nation see how happy they are of a prince that was born to raise the honour and reputation of England, which laziness and luxury have sunk so low. Therefore I have made hast to publish this account, which I have drawn only from letters, that, though they came from the men of as much judgment, and candour, yet were writ in hast, and in a camp, that was in perpetual motion and action.

It there appear here characters that accede the greatest that are in History, yet I thought these would rather be opened, then heightened by any of the strokes of art, and therefore I have writ this with an unaffected simplicity, such as agreed best with the subjects. Words are not necessary, when things speak: and as it was a noble commendation of the Roman Historian, that he had writ the lives of their Emperors with as much liberty as they had led them; so the true relation in writing any part of the Kings story right is to use as little pomp in putting it out, as he himself does in performing it. The preface is perhaps too long for the discourse: but it required some introduction to excuse and justify the writer, and the

Transcript: Source 5a (cont.)

subject is so rich, that when it is once broke in upon, it is not very easy to give over.

...

During this campaign the king found no inconvenience of his army's consisting of four several nations; and though there was a great arrear of pay due several months yet there was not the least tendency of mutiny amongst and of them, nor were there any animosities or emulations amongst them except that noble one of trying who could signalize himself most. The English and the Dutch as the two great bodies had equal shares of the glory of all that was done.

[...]

If subjects as may be allowed to complain of their prince there was none that exceeded all measures so much as the king himself, who though he could never observe enough all the notions that his army made, and therefore by a diligence and courage that are without all exemption He seemed to be almost ever where and every place of danger. He came to Waterford on the first of September and gave orders for the disposing of his army into quarters in such a method as might best cover the country from the inroads of the Rebels, and he sorted such an order for the civil government as the present emergency of things required, which being done he set sail from Duncannon fort on the 5th of September at 4 o' Clock in the afternoon, and the next day by 7 in the evening he happily landed in England where he was received all along as he past through on his way to London with all the acclamations of joy and welcome that dutiful subjects could offer to so great and glorious a prince.

Source 5b: Panoramic view of the Battle of the Boyne, and the victory of King William III, 1691, etching.. Catalogue Ref: MPPH 1/34



Transcript: Source 5b

[English translation of title] Victory won by King William III over the Irish at the River Boyne in Ireland on July 1, 1690

Key written in English: Left hand side

1. King William at the head of his Cavalarie [cavalry] followed by Prince George, the Duke of Ormode and G. Ginchel.
2. Count Strabane [?] with the first Battalion of Guards.
3. The Second Battalion.
4. The third Battalion.
5. The Earl of Portland, Count Schomberg & M. Overkirk.
6. Monsieur de Suylecum
7. Monsieur Isaack.
8. Colonel Goor [Gore]
9. Doctor Walker killed.
10. King William's cannon.
11. The places where Duke Schomberg was killed.
12. Count Nasians Regiment.
13. Brandenburg Regiment.
14. Col. Hamilton's [?] Regiment.
15. An Irish woman

Key written in English: Right hand side

1. King James
2. the French and Irish Cavaliers [cavalry: soldiers on horseback]
3. the Enemy's cannons which wounded King William the day before the Battlaale [battle]
4. Cannon Bullets
5. Drogheda
6. the River Boyne
7. the Irish infanterie [infantry: foot soldiers]
8. a little fort
9. the enemy running away
10. the xx found with Irish running away

Source 6a: 'Letter concerning responses to the Glorious Revolution and the unrest in the colonies', May 15 1689. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/1081 f.10-11

1689
New York

It would now also be very odd that to lay open how false it had been to this City & the Province of New York, for to be owned to that of Boston wth it had continued would occasion the true time of the publication of 8 pieces But I need no say that the Province of New York is a Province, will not admit of the affairs in America, nor place them at an undignified Rank, nor place them at one ranked wth Boston at present therefore they being a more humble praying that the publication of this Province may proceed that concern justice that nothing be determined to their disadvantage before the service is done of this Province to be done, and that if honor will be pleased to make such their complaint known to such as may be able to give advice thereon, till we can receive further intelligence, and order the affairs, which was legally report and place in the Province Remains.

Play it please of honor
Yrs. Obedient most humble servant
The Leftest servant to your most
Residing to New York.

Inclosed is also a copy
of a paper wth I have what
the City made upon them.

New York 18th May 1689
James Van Dyke
Officer at New York.

Rec^d July 1689
New York 16 July 89
1689
Encl: 1689 3p - 01
B. G. 1714

For Land
For Land

Letter from the Government
15th May 1831
10

4

Very Dear Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. in relation to the proposed bill for the better regulation of the trade in slaves. I have the honor to inform you that the bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, and is now before the Committee of the Whole House. I have the honor to inform you that the bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, and is now before the Committee of the Whole House. I have the honor to inform you that the bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, and is now before the Committee of the Whole House.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. Esq.

But now we have a new alarm from among
that some Indians in that country were jealous of this
government and that some movement had been
commenced by them occasioned as we supposed by
movements of some tribes of Indians lately come from
Boston knowing the Indians well here that
the British and the Indians had joined with the French
of Canada to cut them off.
It is most certain that the Governor of Canada
will not slip this opportunity to put them down
Jealous, & by all fair and plausible means
endeavor to bring our Indians to him to
which would tend to the utter ruin of all the
English Settlements on this Continent.
Therefore we shall not be wanting to let our
 utmost endeavor for the winning off his people
and the bringing off our two Nations and unite
Indian Nations to our side.

Transcript: Source 6a

Letter from the Governor and others

To the Honourable Secretary of Plantations

New York 1689 May 15th

May it please your honour.

We have received from several parts most various reports, concerning the present state of affairs in Europe, and in particular of the unparalleled changes in England, yet to this very altogether destitute of any certainty, which we hope to receive ere long. In the meanwhile, we have sawest it our duty by this opportunity for to give your honour some account of the troublesome state and condition of this government. Your honour will find by the enclosed summons and declaration upon what pertained. Some of inhabitants, merchants, and gentry of Boston and places adjacent have thrown down all manner of government there and set up for themselves they have also [tried?] the governor Sir Edmond Andros with several of his council, officers, and gentlemen which still are kept in close custody and prison, disbanded the standing militia, and is fine as it is reported suffer the rebel to commit several insolences.

The colonies of Rhode Island and Connecticut have followed their superiors, and as it is reported have chosen for themselves also new governors, in so much that this part of the dominion was only inclined to rest at peace and quiet till orders do arrive and would undoubtedly so continue unless the seed of sedition had been blown from thence to some of the outward shire of this province.

...

But now we heare a new alarms from Albany that some Indians in that county ward jealous of this government and that some insolences had been committed by them occasioned as we suppose by means of some libels and falsehoods lately come from Boston possessing the Indians with fear that Sir Edmond Andros had joined with the French of Canida [Canada] to cut them off.

It is most certain that the governor of Canida will not slip this opportunity to inflame those jealousies, and by all fair and plausible meanes endeavour to [limit?] our Indians to him selfe. Which would meane to the utter ruin of all the English settlements on this continent.

Therefore we shall not be wanting to use our utmost endeavour for the removing of said jealousies and the securing of our five cantons and warlike Indian nations [i.e. Iroquois] to ourselves.

...

Transcript: Source 6a (cont.)

It would now also be very needful for to lay open how fatal it hath been to this city in the province of New York; for to be announced to that of Boston which if it had continued would occasion the total ruin of the inhabitants of the said provinces. But since we consent that the present consideration of the affairs in general will not admit of an immediate redress, we shall therefore not trouble your honour at present therewith only hoping and most humble praying that the inhabitants of this province may receive that common justice that nothing be determined to their disadvantage before the several grievances of this province be heard, and that you honour will be pleased to make such these complaints known to such as may be able to give relief therein, till we can receive certain intelligences and mindful orders, which we daily expect and shall in the interim remaine.

May it please your honour

You honours most humble servants

The lieutenants, governors and councillors now residing in new York.

Francis Nicholson

Frederick Philipse

Stephanus van Cortlandt

Nicholas Bayard

Enclosed is also a copie [copy] of a passe which shows what title they take upon them

Source 6b: Document about the replacement of Governor Nicholson with Governor Leisler, June 1690. Catalogue Ref: CO 5/1081 f.377-8

Our ^{present} ^{London} Governor in the Street, Treating him with ill language and Threats, and had undoubtedly done Violence to his Person, had they not been apprehensives of Danger to themselves from the People, who immediately gathered together and rescued the Governor out of their hands, seizing some of the principal Actors, and Angling them in their Gyroty, and committing them to Prison; And their friends and Confederates finding them so contrary to the Crown in a superabundant and extraordinary manner, Designed to affront and insult the Government thereby. It was thought fit to Order that no Grievances should be admitted to be brought them, And they should only be allowed Bread and Water. But that Severity was continued towards them only for two days, and afterwards they had the Liberty to have what Grievances they Pleas'd.

This Riotous Action of the Malecontents, occasioned a further Tumult of ill Consequence to themselves; For the Country People, upon a Rumor that the Government was in danger by a Raising of the dissipated party; flockt into the City, shew'd in great Numbers, And notwithstanding the endeavours of the Magistrates to appease them, they took the Liberty (as is too usual with an insatiate multitude) to perpetrate Revenge on those which were the occasion of their carrying, Quatering themselves in their houses for two days, & sending down Squaddes upon them, much to the dissatisfaction of the Magistrates, till they could persuade them to retire in Quiet to their houses. However, It was thought Requisite by the Government for the preventing such disorders for the future and to settle the publick Peace to declare a Nullall of the dissatisfied in Prison for a time, some whereof were being fined, but all were to be Discharged from Prison upon Paying their fines, and entering into Recognizance to be of good behavior for the future.

The Court and City are therefore now in a good posture waiting only dissolution. The Commissioners are all call'd in from those of the former Militia who Acted under Cold Blood, and is Edmund Andersons others Composit granted in the names of their present Masters to such as are well affected to their Masters.

Upon these Our Actings for the bearing their Masters interest in this Province, and considering the publick Peace Our Enemies have endeavourd all they can to misrepresent us, and said us with reproach by saying our disorders proceed not a Dutch Plot, because since that quarter part of the Inhabitants are descended from the Dutch & speak that Language, and they also threaten our ruin if ever the Government come into their hands againe.

Which that it may not doe, and their Masters most loyal & dutyfull Subjects in this Province may reap the benefits and blessings of this most happy Revolution, and not be made a prey to most implacable & insatiable enemies within us, as well as Malicious and Invidious Enemies on our Borders who are ready to enter and devour us. Humbly submitting our selves to your Majesties most Royall Will & pleasure.

RECORD OFFICE
COLONIAL OFFICE

A Memorial of what has Occurred in their Ma^{ty} Province of New York, since the May 18th 377

Setting forth the Necessity of Removing Cap^t Spencer Nicholson (late Gov^r of the said Province) who putting the Command thereof into hands of such persons whose fidelity & good inclination to their present Ma^{ty} the said Province is well assured.

The said Cap^t Nicholson (in imitation of the President of C^t of Mass^{ts}) wholly neglecting to remove the spirit and spiritations of the City, and that not without a treatment & supposition, thereby the more easily to bring the same into the dangerous hands of which he gave the said Province sufficient grounds of apprehension, by discovering both against the Citizens his disposition to the happy Revolution in England & also to the present Ma^{ty} of this City by threatning to force the same about their ears.

Whereupon the Inhabitants in Order to secure the said spirit and City for their Ma^{ty} are, and to respect and glorify the same, and to let see the Government of Mass^{ts} receive with hands of some of undoubted loyalty and affection to their present Ma^{ty} to Remove the said Cap^t Nicholson and make choice of Cap^t Jacob Taylor with a Committee who were also chosen by the people to take into their hands the care and charge of the government, until their Ma^{ty} pleasure should be further known.

Shortly after, Arrived their Ma^{ty} Declaration, to Revoke their King & Queen of England from and protect, whose authority was given to those of the former Council, and to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City to assist in executing thereof, with the proper Commission for that solemnity, who desired an hour's time to consider of it, which time being expired, and no Compliance yielded, but on the contrary an aversion declared thereto. The said Cap^t Taylor, accompanied with the said City and most part of the Inhabitants, did with all the demonstrations of joy and affection, they were capable of celebrate the same.

Whereupon the Mayor and Aldermen were suspended and some persons confined, who were the most entitled in governing their Ma^{ty} National and the Revolution, and some short time after this their Ma^{ty} (as before) desired, directed to Cap^t Jacob Nicholson, by a Gov^r of the Ma^{ty} Province of New York, and in the absence to such as for the time being do take care for the Protection of their Ma^{ty} Peace, and administering the Government that their Ma^{ty} Province, being such to take upon them the place of Gov^r of Mass^{ts} and Commander in Chief of the said Province, and to proclaim Cap^t William and Queen Mary King and Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, and Supreme Lord and Lady of the Province of New York, of not inferior value, which was accordingly performed.

The Inhabitants of the said City and Province, considering that by virtue of their Ma^{ty} Letters, the said Cap^t Taylor was sufficiently empowered to receive the same & to act accordingly, it gave them a general satisfaction, whereupon their Committee were immediately dissolved, and a Council chosen, by whose assistance Cap^t Taylor, late in the said Government, returned to his Ma^{ty} Order.

The Members of the former Government, notwithstanding your Ma^{ty} the expectation, they owed to this Government, and have created a faction in the said Province to the endangering the said Province. Since it happened among that we are under continual attacks from the frequent attacks the speech made upon your Ma^{ty} Province, to that without the care and circulation of affairs. This their Ma^{ty} Province was in apparent hazard of being delivered up to the Crown from, belonging to the French King, whereby their present Ma^{ty} most loyal Protestant Subjects of this Province would have been rendered irreparably equal to their Ma^{ty} and this Province become a Colony of the French.

And to that height of insolence was that Dissaffected party grown, that in a riotous manner in the day time, they beat and surrounded the said Cap^t Taylor.

374

Out

Transcript: Source 6b

'A Memoriall of what has occurred in their Majesties' Province of New York since the news of their Majesties' happy arrival in England'

Setting forth the necessity of removing Captain Francis Nicholson late Lieutenant Governor of the said province and putting the command thereof into hands of such persons, of whose fidelity and good inclination to their present Majesties the aforesaid Province is well assured.

The said Captain Nicholson in imitation of his predecessors' (Colonel Dongan) wholly neglecting to repair the fort and fortifications of the city, and that not without a vehement suspicion, thereby the more easily to betray the same into the enemies hands, of which he gave the said province sufficient ground of apprehension, by discovering both by words and actions, his disaffection to the happy revolution in England and also to the inhabitants of the city by threatening to fire the same about their eares.

Whereupon the inhabitants in order to secure the said fort and city for their Majesties use, and to repair and fortify the same, and to place the government of the provinces in the hands of some of undoubted loyalty and affection to the present Majesties did remove the said Captain Nicholson and made choice of Captain Jacob Leisler with a committee (who were also chosen by the people) to take into their hands the care and charge of the government until their Majesties' pleasure should be further knowne.

Shortly after arrived their Majesties' Proclamation to proclaim them King and Queen of England, France and Ireland; notice whereof was given to those of the former council, and to the mayor and aldermen of the city to assist in proclaiming thereof, with the proper ceremonies for that solemnity, who desired an houres time to consider of it; which time being expired and no compliance yielded, but on the contrary an aversion discovered thereto; the said Captain Leisler, accompanied with the committee and most part of the inhabitants, did with all the demonstrations of joy and affection they were capable of celebrate the same.

Whereupon the mayor and aldermen were suspended and some persons confined, who were the most eminent in opposing their Majesties' interest and the Revolution, and some short time after this their majesties' letter arrived, directed to Captain Frances Nicholson, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor of his Majesties' province of New York; and in his absence to such as for the time being do take care for the preservation of their Majesties' peace, and administering the laws that their Majesties province; ordering such to take upon them the place of Lieutenant governor and commander in chief of the said province, and to proclaim King William and Queen Mary King and Queene, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, and supreme Lord and Lady of the province of New York, if not already done, which was accordingly performed.

The inhabitants of the said city and province conceiving that by virtue of their Majesties' said letter, the said Captain Leisler was sufficiently empowered to receive the same and

Transcript: Source 6b (cont.)

to act accordingly; it gave them a general satisfaction; whereupon this committee were immediately dismissed, in a council chosen; by whose assistance Captain Leisler, act in the said government pursuant to his Majesties' order.

The members of the former government, notwithstanding gave all the opposition they could to this reformation, and have creation a faction in the said province to the endangering the losse thereof, since it happens at a time, that we are under continuall alarms from the frequent attacks the French make upon our frontiers; so that without the care and precaution aforesaid; this their Majesties' province was in apparent hazard of being delivered up to the Canada forces, belonging to the French King; whereby their present Majesties' most loyal Protestant subjects of this province would have been rendered miserable equal to their fears, and this province become a colony of the French.

And to that height of insolence was the disaffected party growne; that in a riotous manner in the day time, they beset and surrounded the said Captain Leisler

...

Our lieutenant governor in the street; treating him with ill language and threats, and had undoubtedly done violence to his person; had they not been apprehensive of danger to themselves from the people, who immediately gathered together and rescued the governor out of their hands, seizing some of the principal actors and ringleaders in that riot, and committing them to prison; and their friends and confederates, sending them provisions to the prison in a superabundant and extraordinary manner, designedly to affront and insult the government thereby. It was thought fit to order that no provisions should be permitted to be brought them, and they should only be allowed bread and water; but that severity was continued towards them only for two days, and afterwards that had the liberty to have what provisions they pleased.

The riotous action of the malcontents, occasioned a further tumult of ill consequence to themselves; for the country people, upon a rumour that the government was in danger, by a rising of the disaffected party, flocked into the city, armed in great numbers, and notwithstanding the endeavours of the magistrates to appease them; they took the liberty (as is too usual with an enraged multitude) to perpetuate revenge on those which were the occasion of their coming, quartering themselves in their houses for two days and committing diverse insolences upon them, much to the dissatisfaction of the magistrates till they could persuade them to return in quiet to their houses. However it was thought requisite by the government for preventing such disorders for the future and to secure the public peace to detain several of the disaffected in prison for a time, some whereof were since fined, but all ordered to be discharged from prison, upon paying their fines, and entering into recognizance to be of good behaviour for the future.

The fort and city are therefore now in a good posture wanting only ammunition. The commission are all called in from those of the former militia who acted under Colonel Dungan and Sir Edmond Andros and other commissions granted in the name of their

Transcript: Source 6b (cont.)

present Majesties to such as are well affected to their Majesties' interest. Upon those our actings for the securing their Majesties interest in this province, and conserving the public peace our enemies have endeavoured all they can to misrepresent us, and load us with reproach, by terming our aforesaid proceedings a Dutch plot, because indeed three-quarter parts of the inhabitants are descended from the Dutch and speak that language, and they also threaten our ruin if over the government come with x their hands againe.

Which that it may not doe, and their Majesties' most loyal and dutiful subjects in this province may reap the benefits and blessings of this most happy revolution, and not be made a prey to the most implacable and insulting enemies within us, as well as malicious and inveterate enemies on our borders who are ready to enter and devour us. Humbly submitting ourselves to your Majesties' most royal will and pleasure.



Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

Find out more:

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