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## Original Poems And Translations, By John Dryden, Esq; Now First Collected and Publish'd together, In Two Volumes

Containing Poems on several Occasions

Dryden, John London, 1743

The Medal. A Satire Against Sedition.

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MACHET BEDEONNE

THE

MEDAL.

A

SATIRE

AGAINST

SEDITION.

Per Graiûm populos, mediæque per Elidis Urbem Bat ovans, Divûmque sibi poscebat Honores.

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## EPISTLE

TOTHE

# WHIGS.

OR to whom can I dedicate this Poem, with fo much juffice, as to you? 'Tisthe representation of your own Hero: 'Tis the Picture drawn at length, which you admire and prize so much in little. None of your Omaments are wanting; neither the Landskip of the Tower, nor the Rifing Sun; nor the Anno Domini of your new Sovereign's Coronation. must needs be a grateful undertaking to your whole Party; especially to those who have not been so happy as to purchase the Original. I hear the Graver has made a good Market of it : All his Kings are bought up already; or the value of the remainder so inhanc'd, that many a poor Polander, who would be glad to worship the Image, is not able to go to the cost of him; but must be content to see him here. I must confess, I am no great Artist; but Sign-post-painting will serve the turn to remember a Friend by; especially when better is not to be had. Yet for your comfort the Lineaments are true: And though he lat not five times to me, as he did to B. yet I have confulted History; as the Italian Painters do, when

they would draw a Nero or a Caligula; though the have not feen the Man, they can help their Imagi. nation by a Statue of him, and find out the Colouring from Suetonius and Tacitus. Truth is, yo might have spar'd one side of your Medal: The Head wou'd be feen to more advantage, if it were plac'd on a Spike of the Tower; a little nearers the Sun; which would then break out to better purpose. You tell us, in your Preface to the No Pr. testant Plot, that you shall be forc'd hereaster ! leave off your Modesty. I suppose you mean that it tle, which is left you: For it was worn to rags when you put out this Medal. Never was there practish fuch a piece of notorious Impudence in the faced an Establish'd Government. I believe, when he's dead, you will wear him in Thumb-Rings as the Turks did Scanderbeg; as if there were Virtuei - his Bones to preferve you against Monarchy. Ye all this while you pretend not only zeal for the Publick Good, but a due Veneration for the Perlon of the King. But all Men, who can fee an Inchle fore them, may eafily detect those gross fallacia That it is necessary for men in your Circumstances to pretend both, is granted you; for without them there could be no ground to raise a Faction. But I would ask you one civil question: What right has any man among you, or any Affociation of men (to come nearer to you) who, out of Parliament cannot be confider'd in a publick Capacity, to meet, as you daily do, in Factious Clubs, to vilify the Government in your Discourses, and to libelit in all your Writings? Who made you Judge in Ifrael? Or how is it confiftent with your Zel for the publick Welfare to promote Sedition! Does your Definition of Loyal, which is to ferre the King according to the Laws, allow you the Licence

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Licence of traducing the Executive Power, with which you own he is invested? You complain, that his Majesty has lost the love and confidence of his People; and, by your very urging it, you endeavour, what in you lies, to make him lofe All good Subjects abhor the thought of them. Arbitrary Power, whether it be in one or many : If you were the Patriots you would feem, you would not at this rate incense the Multitude to assume it; for no fober Man can fear it, either from the King's Disposition or his Practice; or even, where you would odiously lay it, from his Ministers. Give us leave to enjoy the Government, and the benefit of Laws, under which we were born, and which we defire to transmit to our Posterity. You ne not the Trustees of the publick Liberty : And If you have not right to petition in a Crowd, much his have you to intermeddle in the management of Affairs, or to arraign what you do not like; which neffect is every thing that is done by the King and Council. Can you imagine, that any reasonable man will believe you respect the Person of his Maelly, when 'tis apparent that your feditious Pamplets are stuffed with particular Reflections on him? If you have the confidence to deny this, 'tis eafy be evinc'd from a thousand Passages, which I mly forbear to quote, because I desire they should the and be forgotten. I have perus'd many of your lapers; and to shew you that I have, the third put of your No-protestant Plot is much of it stolen om your dead Author's Pamphlet call'd the frouth of Popery; as manifestly as Milton's Dence of the English People is from Buchanan, de ve regni apud Scotos; or your first Covenant, ad new Affociation, from the holy League of the rench Guisards. Any one, who reads Davila, VOL. I.

may trace your Practices all along. There were the same pretences for Reformation, and Loyalty. the same Aspersions of the King, and the same grounds of a Rebellion. I know not whether you will take the Historian's Word, who fays, it was reported, that Poltrot a Huguenot murder'd Fran. cis Duke of Guife, by the Instigations of Theodore Beza: Or that it was a Huguenot Minister, other. wife called a Presbyterian (for our Church abhors fo devilish a Tenet) who first writ a Treatise of the lawfulness of depoling and murdering Kings, of a different Persuasion in Religion. But I am able to prove from the Doctrine of Calvin, and Principles of Buchanan, that they fet the People above the Magistrate; which, if I mistake not, is your own Fundamental; and which carries your Loyalty no farther than your Liking. Vote of the House of Commons goes on your side, you are as ready to observe it, as if it were passed into a Law: But when you are pinch'd with any former, and yet unrepealed, Act of Parliament, you declare that in fome Cases you will not be obliged The Paffage is in the fame third Part of the by it. No-protestant Plot; and is too plain to be denied. The late Copy of your intended Affociation you neither wholly justify nor condemn; But, as the Papiffs, when they are unoppos'd, fly out into all the Pageantries of Worship, but, in times of War, when they are hard press'd by Arguments, lie close intrench'd behind the Council of Trent; fo, now, when your Affairs are in a low Condition, you date not pretend that to be a legal Combination; but whenfoever you are afloat, I doubt not but it willh maintain'd and justify'd to purpose. For indeed there is nothing to defend it but the Sword: 'Tis

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the proper time to fay any thing, when men have all things in their power.

In the mean time, you wou'd fain be nibbling at a Parallel betwixt this Affociation, and that in the time of Queen Elizabeth. But there is this small difference betwixt them, that the ends of the one are directly opposite to the other: One with the Queen's approbation and conjunction, as head of it; the other without either the confent or knowledge of the King, against whose Authority it is manifestly design'd. Therefore you do well to have recourse to your last Evasion, that it was contriv'd by your Enemies, and shuffled into the Papers that were feiz'd; which yet you fee the Nation is not so easy to believe, as your own Jury. But the matter is not difficult, to find twelve men in Newgate, who wou'd acquit a Malefactor.

I have one only favour to defire of you at parting; that, when you think of answering this Poem, you wou'd employ the same Pens against it, who have combated with fo much fuccess against Absabm and Achitophel: For then you may affure yourselves of a clear Victory, without the least Reply. Rail at me abundantly; and, not to break a Cuflom, do it without wit: By this method you will gain a confiderable point, which is, wholly to wave the answer of my Arguments. Never own the bottom of your Principles, for fear they should be Trea-Fall feverely on the mifcarriages of Government; for if Scandal be not allow'd, you are no freeborn Subjects. If God has not bless'd you with the Talent of Rhiming, make use of my poor Stock and welcome; let your Verses run upon my seet: And for

for the utmost Refuge of notorious Blockheads, reduc'd to the last extremity of sense, turn my own lines upon me, and, in utter despair of your own Satire, make me fatirize my felf. Some of you have been driven to this Bay already: but above all the rest commend me to the Non-conformist Parfon, who writ the Whip and Key. I am afraid it is not read fo much as the Piece deferves, because the Bookfeller is every week crying Help at the end of his Gazette, to get it off. You fee I am charitable enough to do him a kindness, that it may be publish'd as well as printed; and that so much skill in Hebrew Derivations may not lie for Wastepaper in the Shop. Yet I half suspect he went no farther for his Learning, than the Index of Hebrew Names and Etymologies, which is printed at the end of some English Bibles. If Achitophel signify the Brother of a Fool, the Author of that Poem will pass with his Readers for the next of And, perhaps, 'tis the Relation that makes the kindness. Whatever the Verses are, buy 'em up, I beleech you, out of pity; for I hear the Conventicle is thut up, and the Brother of Achitophel out of fervice.

Now Footmen, you know, have the generofity to make a Purfe, for a Member of their Society, who has had his Livery pull'd over his Ears: And even Protestant Socks are bought up among you, out of veneration to the name. A Dissenter in Poetry from Sense and English will make as good a Protestant Rhimer, as a Dissenter from the Church of England a Protestant Parson. Besides, if you encourage a young Beginner, who knows but he may elevate his style a little, above the vulgar Epithets of prephane and faucy Jack, and Atheistick Scribbler, with which he

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he treats me, when the fit of Enthusiasm is strong upon him? by which well-manner'd and charitable Expressions, I was certain of his Sect, before I knew What wou'd you have more of a man? He has damn'd me in your Cause from Genesis to the Revelations; and has half the Texts of both the Testaments against me, if you will be so civil to your selves as to take him for your Interpreter, and not to take them for Irifb Witnesses. perhaps, you will tell me, that you retain'd him only for the opening of your Cause, and that your main Lawyer is yet behind. Now if it so happen he meet with no more Reply than his Predeceifors, you may either conclude, that I trust to the goodness of my Cause, or fear my Adversary, or disdain him, or what you please; for the short on't is, 'tis indifferent to your humble Servant, whatever your Party fays er thinks of him.



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A SATIRE against SEDITION.

F all our Antick Sights, and Pageantry. Which English Idiots run in crowds to fee, The Polish Medal bears the prize alone: A Monster, more the Favourite of the Town, Than either Fairs or Theatres have shown. Never did Art so well with Nature strive ; Nor ever Idol feem'd fo much alive : So like the Man; fo golden to the fight, So base within, so counterfeit and light. One fide is fill'd with Title and with Face; And, left the King should want a regal Place, On the Reverse, a Tow'r the Town surveys; O'er which our mounting Sun his Beams displays. The Word, pronounc'd aloud by Shrieval Voice, Letamur, which, in Polish, is rejoice. The Day, Month, Year, to the great Act are join'd And a new Canting Holiday defign'd. Five Days he fat, for every cast and look; Four more than God to finish Adam took. But who can tell what Essence Angels are, Or how long Heav'n was making Lucifer? 0, cou'd the Style that copy'd every grace, And plough'd fuch Furrows for an Eunuch Face, Cou'd it have form'd his ever-changing Will, The various Piece had tir'd the Graver's Skill! K 4

A Martial Hero first, with early Care, Blown, like a Pigmy by the Winds, to War: A beardless Chief; a Rebel, ere a Man: (So young his Hatred to his Prince began.) Next this, (How wildly will Ambition steer!) A Vermin, wriggling in th' Usurper's Ear; Bart'ring his venal Wit for fums of Gold, He cast himself into the Saint-like Mould; Groan'd, figh'd, and pray'd, while Godliness was Gain: The loudest Bagpipe of the squeaking Train. But, as 'tis hard to cheat a Juggler's Eyes, His open Lewdness he cou'd ne'er disguise. There fplit the Saint: For Hypocritick Zeal Allows no Sins but those it can conceal. Whoring to Scandal gives too large a scope: Saints must not trade; but they may interlope. Th' ungodly Principle was all the fame : But a gross Cheat betrays his Partner's Game. Besides, their pace was formal, grave and slack: His nimble Wit out-ran the heavy Pack. Yet still he found his Fortune at a stay : Whole droves of Blockheads choking up the way: They took, but not rewarded, his Advice; Villain and Wit exact a double price. Pow'r was his Aim: but, thrown from that pretence, The Wretch turn'd Loyal in his own Defence, And Malice reconcil'd him to his Prince. Him, in the Anguish of his Soul, he serv'd; Rewarded faster still than he deserv'd. Behold him now exalted into Trust: His Counsel's oft convenient, seldom just. E'en in the most fincere Advice he gave, He had a grudging still to be a Knave. The Frauds he learnt in his Fanatick Years. Made him uneasy in his lawful Gears:

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At best as little honest as he cou'd : And, like white Witches, mischievously Good. Tohis first Byass, longingly, he leans ; And rather wou'd be great by wicked Means. Thus, fram'd for ill, he loos'd our Triple hold; (Advice unsafe, precipitous, and bold.) From hence those tears; that Ilium of our woe: Who helps a pow'rful Friend, fore-arms a Foe. What wonder if the Waves prevail fo far, When he cut down the Banks that made the Bar? Seas follow but their Nature to invade ; lut he by Art our native Strength betray'd. So Sampson to his Foe his force confest, And, to be shorn, lay slumb'ring on her Breast. lut, when this fatal Counsel, found too late, Expos'd its Author to the publick Hate; When his just Sov'reign, by no impious way, (m'd be feduc'd to arbitrary Sway; loraken of that hope, he shifts the Sail; Drives down the Current with a pop'lar gale; And shews the Fiend confess'd, without a Veil. He preaches to the Crowd, that Power is lent, Int not convey'd to Kingly Government; That Claims successive bear no binding force; That Coronation Oaths are things of course; laintains, the Multitude can never err; and fets the People in the Papal Chair. The reason's obvious; Int'rest never lyes: he most have still their Int'rest in their Eyes; he Pow'r is always theirs, and Pow'r is ever wife. linighty Crowd! thou shorten'st all dispute; low'r is thy Essence, Wit thy Attribute: or Faith nor Reason make thee at a stay, hou leap'st o'er all eternal Truths, in thy Pindarick Athens.

At

#### 202 POEMS on feveral Occasions.

Athens, no doubt, did righteously decide, When Phocion and when Socrates were try'd: As righteously they did those dooms repent; Still they were wife, whatever way they went. Crowds err not, tho' to both Extremes they run; To kill the Father, and recal the Son. Some think the Fools were most, as times went then: But now the World's o'erstock'd with prudent Men. The common Cry is e'en Religion's Test; The Turk's is, at Constantinople, best; Idols in India, Popery at Rome; And our own Worship only true at home : And true, but for the time; 'tis hard to know How long we please it shall continue for This fide to-day, and that to-morrow burns; So all are God-a'mighties in their Turns. A tempting Doctrine, plaufible and new: What Fools our Fathers were, if this be true! Who, to destroy the Seeds of Civil War, Inherent Right in Monarchs did declare : And, that a lawful Pow'r might never cease, Secur'd Succession, to secure our Peace. Thus Property and Sov'reign Sway, at last, In equal Balances were justly cast. But this new Jehu spurs the hot-mouth'd Horse; Instructs the Beast to know his native Force; To take the Bit between his Teeth, and fly To the next headlong Steep of Anarchy. Too happy England, if our good we knew; Wou'd we peffefs the Freedom we purfue! The lavish Government can give no more: Yet we repine; and plenty makes us poor. God try'd us once; our Rebel-Fathers fought; He glutted 'em with all the Pow'r they fought;

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'Till, mafter'd by their own usurping Brave, The free-born Subject funk into a Slave. We lothe our Manna, and we long for Quails Ah what is Man when his own wish prevails! How rash, how swift to plunge himself in ill: Proud of his Pow'r, and boundless in his Will! That Kings can do no wrong we must believe : None can they do, and must they all receive? Help Heaven! or fadly we shall see an hour, When neither wrong nor right are in their Pow'r ! Already they have lost their best Defence. The Benefit of Laws, which they difpense; No justice to their righteous Cause allow'd; But baffled by an Arbitrary Crowd; And Medals grav'd, their Conquest to record, The Stamp and Coin of their adopted Lord The Man, who laugh'd but once, to fee an Afs

Mumbling to make the cross-grain'd Thistles pass, Might laugh again, to fee a Jury chaw The prickles of unpalatable Law. The Witnesses, that, Leech-like, liv'd on blood, Sucking for them were med'cinally good : But, when they fasten'd on their fester'd Sore, Then Justice and Religion they forswore; Their Maiden Oaths debauch'd into a Whore. Thus Men are rais'd by Factions, and decry'd; And Rogue and Saint distinguish'd by their Side. They rack e'en Scripture to confess their Cause; And plead a Call to preach, in spite of Laws. But that's no news to the poor injur'd Page; It has been us'd as ill in every Age; And is constrain'd, with Patience, all to take: For what Defence can Greek and Hebrew make?

Happy;

Till,

#### 204 POEMS on several Occasions.

Happy, who can this talking Trumpet feize;
They make it speak what-ever Sense they please.
'Twas fram'd, at first, our Oracle t' enquire;
But, since our Sects in Prophecy grow higher, [spire]
The Text inspires not them; but they the Text in

London, thou great Emporium of our Isle. O thou too bounteous, thou too fruitful Nile, How shall I praise or curse to thy desert! Or feparate thy found, from thy corrupted Part! I call'd thee Nile; the Parallel will fland: 'Thy tides of Wealth overflow the fatten'd Land: Yet monsters from thy large increase we find, Engender'd on the Slime thou leav'ft behind. Sedition has not wholly feiz'd on thee; Thy nobler Parts are from infection free. Of Israel's Tribes thou hast a numerous Band; But fill the Canaanite is in the Land. Thy military Chiefs are brave and true; Nor are thy difinchanted Burghers few. The Head is loyal which thy Heart commands; But what's a Head with two fuch gouty Hands? The wife and wealthy love the furest way, And are content to thrive and to obey. But Wisdom is to Sloth too great a Slave; None are fo bufy as the Fool and Knave. Those let me curse; what vengeance will they urge, Whose Ordures neither Plague nor Fire can purge; Nor sharp Experience can to Duty bring, Nor angry Heav'n, nor a forgiving King! In Gospel Phrase their Chapmen they betray: Their Shops are Dens, the Buyer is their Prey. The Knack of Trades is, living on the Spoil; They boast, e'en when each other they beguile.

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Customs to steal is such a trivial Thing, That 'tis their Charter, to defraud their King. All Hands unite of every jarring Sect ; They cheat the Country first, and then infect. They, for God's Cause, their Monarchs dare dethrone ; And they'll be fure to make his Caufe their own. Whether the plotting Jesuit laid the Plan Ofmurd'ring Kings, or the French Puritan, Our Sacrilegious Sects their Guides out-go, And Kings and Kingly Pow'r wou'd murder too. What means their trait'rous Combination less, Too plain t' evade, too shameful to confess? But Treason is not own'd when 'tis descry'd; Successful Crimes alone are justify'd. The Men, who no Conspiracy wou'd find, Who doubts but, had it taken, they had join'd; join'd in a mutual Cov'nant of Defence, Atfirst without, at last against their Prince. Sov'reign Right by Sov'reign Pow'r they fcan, The same bold Maxim holds in God and Man: God were not fafe, his Thunder cou'd they shun; He shou'd be forc'd to Crown another Son. Thus, when the Heir was from the Vineyard thrown, The rich Possession was the Murd'rers own. la vain to fophistry they have recourse: By proving theirs no Plot, they prove 'tis worse; Unmask'd Rebellion, and audacious Force. Which, though not actual, yet all Eyes may fee Tis working, in th' immediate Pow'r to be : for, from pretended Grievances they rife, first to diflike, and after to despise: Then, Cyclop-like, in human slesh to deal; Chop up a Minister, at every Meal:

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### 206 POEMS on several Occasions.

Perhaps not wholly to melt down the King; But clip his regal Rights within the Ring. From thence, t'assume the Pow'r of Peace and War: And ease him by degrees of publick Care. Yet, to consult his Dignity and Fame, He should have leave to exercise the Name; [Game And hold the Cards, while Commons play'd the For what can Pow'r give more than Food and Drink. To live at ease, and not be bound to think? These are the cooler Methods of their Crime: But their hot Zealots think 'tis loss of time ; On utmost Bounds of Loyalty they stand, And grin and whet like a Croatian Band, That waits impatient for the last Command. Thus Out-laws open Villany maintain; They steal not, but in Squadrons scowr the Plain: And, if their Pow'r the Passengers subdue, The Most have Right, the Wrong is in the Few. Such impious Axioms foolifhly they show; For, in some Soils, Republicks will not grow: Our Temp'rate Isle will no Extremes sustain, Of Pop'lar Sway, or Arbitrary Reign; But flides between them both into the best ; Secure in Freedom, in a Monarch bleft : And though the Climate, vex'd with various Winds, Works, through our yielding Bodies, on our Minds, The wholfom Tempest purges what it breeds, To recommend the Calmness that succeeds.

But thou, the Pander of the People's Hearts, O crooked Soul, and Serpentine in Arts! Whose blandishments a Loyal Land have whor'd, And broke the Bonds she plighted to her Lord;

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POEMS on Several Occasions.

What Curses on thy blasted Name will fall!
Which Age to Age their Legacy shall call; [all.
For all must curse the Woes, that must descend on Religion thou hast none: thy Mercury

Has pass'd through every Sect, or theirs through thee.
But what thou giv'ft, that Venom still remains;

And the pox'd Nation feels thee in their Brains.

What else inspires the Tongue, and swells the Breasts

Of all thy bellowing Renegado Priests.

That preach up thee for God; dispense thy Laws, And with thy Stum ferment their fainting Cause; Ergh Funes of Madness raise; and toil and found

Fresh Fumes of Madness raise; and toil and sweat To make the formidable Cripple great? Yet, shou'd thy Crimes succeed, shou'd lawless Pow's

Compass those Ends thy greedy Hopes devour, Thy canting Friends thy mortal Foes wou'd be: Thy God and theirs will never long agree.

For thine (if thou hast any) must be one
That lets the World and Human-kind alone:
A jolly God, that passes Hours too well

To promise Heav'n, or threaten us with Hell;
That unconcern'd can at Rebellion sit,

And wink at Crimes he did himself commit.
A Tyrant theirs; the Heav'n their Priesthood paints

A Conventicle of gloomy fullen Saints; A Heav'n, like Bedlam, flovenly and fad;

Fore-doom'd for Souls, with falle Religion mad.
Without a Vision Poets can fore-show

What all but Fools, by common Sense, may know: If true Succession from our Isle should fail, And Crowds profane with implicus Arms prevail; Not thou, nor those thy Factious Arts engage, Shall reap that Harmond et al. W.

Shall reap that Harvest of rebellious Rage, With which thou slatter'st thy decrepit Age.

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### 208 POEMS on several Occasions.

The swelling Poison of the sev'ral Sects,
Which, wanting Vent, the Nation's Health infects,
Shall burst its Bag; and sighting out their way,
The various Venoms on each other prey.
The Presbyter, pust up with spiritual pride,
Shall on the Necks of the lewd Nobles ride;
His Brethren damn, the civil Pow'r defy;
And parcel out Republick Prelacy.
Eut short shall be his Reign; his rigid Yoke
And Tyrant Pow'r will puny Sects provoke;
And Frogs and Toads, and all the Tadpole Train,
Will croak to Heav'n for help, from this devouring
Crane.

The cut-throat Sword and clamorous Gown shall jar, In sharing their Ill gotten Spoils of War: Chiefs shall be grudg'd the part which they pretend; Lords envy Lords, and Friends with every Friend About their impious Merit shall contend.

The surly Commons shall respect deny, And justle Peerage out with Property.

Their Gen'ral either shall his Trust betray, And force the Crowd to Arbitrary Sway; Or they, suspecting his ambitious Aim, In hate of Kings, shall cast anew the Frame; And thrust out Collatine that bore their Name.

Thus inborn Broils the Factions wou'd engage, Or Wars of exil'd Heirs, or foreign Rage; 'Till halting Vengeance overtook our Age; And our wild labours, wearled into Reft, Reclin'd us on a rightful Monarch's Breaft.

Et dici potuisse, & non potuisse refelli.

RELIGIO