

APPEAL

James Scott (1649–1685), Duke of Monmouth
to James II (1633–1701), King of England (1685–1688)

8 July 1685

Your Majesty may think it the misfortune I now lay under makes me make this application to you; but I do assure Your Majesty it is the remorse I now have in me of the wrong I have done you in several things, and now in taking up arms against you. For my taking up arms, it was never in my thought since the King died. The Prince and Princess of Orange will be witness for me of the assurance I gave them that I would never stir against you. But my misfortune was such as to meet with some horrid people that made me believe things of Your Majesty, and gave me so many false arguments that I was fully led away to believe that it was a shame and a sin before God not to do it.

But, sir, I will not trouble Your Majesty at present with many things I could say of myself that I am sure would move your compassion, the chief end of this letter being only to beg of you that I may have that happiness as to speak to Your Majesty, for I have that to say to you, sir, that I hope may give you a long and happy reign. I am sure, sir, when you hear me, you will be convinced of the zeal I have of your preservation and how heartily I repent of what I have done.

I can say no more to Your Majesty now, being this letter must be seen by those that keep me. Therefore, sir, I shall make an end in begging of Your Majesty to believe so well of me that I would rather die a thousand deaths than excuse anything I have done, if I did not really think myself the most in wrong that ever a man was and had not from the bottom of my heart an abhorrence for those that put me upon it, and for the action itself.

I hope, sir, God Almighty will strike your heart with mercy and compassion for me, as He has done mine with the abhorrence of what I have done. Wherefore, sir, I hope I may live to show you how zealous I shall ever be for your service. And could I but say one word in this letter, you would be convinced of it; but it is of that consequence that I dare not do it. Therefore, sir, I do beg of you once more to let me speak to you.

George Roberts, *The Life, Progresses, and Rebellion of James, Duke of Monmouth* (London: Longman, 1844), II:112–113