

THE PROTESTATION

House of Commons

3 May 1641

We, the knights, citizens, and burgesses of the Commons' House in Parliament, finding to the grief of our hearts that the designs of the priests and Jesuits, and other adherents to the See of Rome, have been of late more boldly and frequently put in practice than formerly, to the undermining and danger of the ruin of the true reformed religion in His Majesty's dominions established;

And finding also that there have been, and having cause to suspect there still are, even during the sitting in Parliament, endeavours to subvert the fundamental laws of England and Ireland, and to introduced the exercise of an arbitrary and tyrannical government by most pernicious and wicked counsels, plots, and conspiracies;

And that the long intermission and unhappier breach of Parliaments has occasioned many illegal taxations, whereupon the subjects have been prosecuted and grieved;

And that divers innovations and superstitions have been brought into the Church, multitudes driven out of His Majesty's dominions, jealousies raised and fomented between the King and people;

A Popish army levied in Ireland, and two armies brought into the bowels of this Kingdom, to the hazard of His Majesty's royal person, the consumption of the revenue of the Crown and the treasure of this realm;

And lastly finding the great causes of jealousy, endeavors have been, and are used, to bring the English army into misunderstanding of this Parliament, thereby to incline that army by force to bring to pass those wicked counsels; have therefore thought good to join ourselves in a declaration of our united affections and resolutions, and to make this ensuing Protestation:

I, A.B., do, in the presence of God promise, vow, and protest to maintain and defend, as far as lawfully I may with my life, power, and estate, the true reformed Protestant religion expressed in the doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery and Popish innovations, and according to the duty of my allegiance to His Majesty's royal person, honor, and estate; as also the power and privilege of Parliament, the lawful rights and liberties of the subjects, and every person that makes this Protestation in whatsoever he shall do, in the lawful pursuance of the same;

And to my power, as far as lawfully I may, I will oppose, and by good ways and means endeavor to bring to condign punishment all such as shall by force, practice, counsel, plots, conspiracies, or otherwise, do anything to the contrary in this present Protestation contained.

And further, I shall in all just and honorable ways endeavour to preserve the union and peace betwixt the three kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and neither for hope, fear, nor any other respect, shall relinquish this promise, vow, and protestation.

Henry Gee and William John Hardy, eds., *Documents Illustrative of English Church History* (London: MacMillan and Company, 1914):545–546.