

THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE

OR

The Opinion of Some Lords and Commons Concerning the Londoners' Petition for Peace

Oxford, 10 March 1643

Give ear, beloved Londoners: Fie, fie, you shame us all.
Your rising up for peace will make our close committee fall.
I wonder you should ask for that which they must needs deny.
There's 30 swears they'll have no peace, and bid me tell you why.

My father Goodwin, quoth Wharton, calls me a silly lad;
And wonders you'll ask peace of me, who have been lately mad.
You chose me Irish General, and I chose to stay here.
For should I fight amongst the bogs? There's nary a sawpit there.¹

My venom swells, quoth Holles, and that His Majesty knows.²
And I, quoth Hampden, fetch the Scots, whence all this mischief grows.³
I am an ass, quoth Haslerig, but yet I'm deep in the plot.⁴

Who talks of peace, quoth Ludlow, has neither sense nor reason;⁵
For I never spake in the House but once, and then I spoke high treason.

Oh Lord! Sir Robert Harley said, how do our foes increase;⁶
I wonder who the Devil it was that first invented peace.
(an oath) said Henry Marten, we'll have no accommodation;⁷
Do you not know 'twas I that tore His Majesty's proclamation?
In the House I spoke high treason; I've sold both land and lease.

You see (beloved Londoners), your peace is out of season;
For which you have the sense of the House, and every Member's reason.
Oh do not stand for peace then, for trust me if you do,
Each county of the Kingdom will rise up and do so too.

John Webb, *Memorials of the Civil War Between King Charles I and the Parliament of England as it Affected Herefordshire and the
Adjacent Counties* (London: Longman, Green, and Company, 1879), II:370–371.

¹ Philip, Baron Wharton (1613–1696), a Puritan regimental commander at the 1642 Battle of Edgehill, his troops fled and, according to his detractors, he hid himself in a saw-pit.

² Denzil Holles (1599–1680) had since 1629 used his seat in Parliament to protest Charles I's decisions and actions.

³ John Hampden (c. 1595–1643) was believed to have invited the Scots to invade in 1640.

⁴ Arthur Haslerig (1601–1661), one of the five Members Charles I attempt to arrest for treason in January 1642.

⁵ Edmund Ludlow (c. 1617–1692)

⁶ Sir Robert Harley (1579–1656)

⁷ Henry Marten (1602–1680) in 1642 publically tore up the King's Commission of Array