

INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

16 December 1653

1. That the supreme legislative authority of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, shall be, and reside, in one person, and the people assembled in Parliament. The style of which person shall be, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
2. That the exercise of the chief magistracy and administration of the government over the said countries and dominions, and the people thereof, shall be in the Lord Protector, assisted with a council, the number whereof shall not exceed twenty-one, nor be less than thirteen.
3. That all writs, processes, commissions, patents, grants, and other things which now run in the name and style of the keepers of the liberty of England by authority of Parliament, shall run in the name and style of the Lord Protector, from whom, for the future, shall be derived all magistracy and honors in these three nations; and shall have the power of pardons (except in case of murder and treason) and benefit of all forfeitures for the public use. And shall govern the said countries and dominions in all things by the advice of the council, and according to these presents, and the laws.
4. That the Lord Protector, the Parliament sitting, shall dispose and order the militia and forces both by sea and land, for the peace and good of the three nations, by consent of Parliament. And that the Lord Protector, with the advice and consent of the major part of the council, shall dispose and order the militia for the ends aforesaid in the intervals of Parliament.
5. That the Lord Protector by the advice aforesaid shall direct, in all things concerning the keeping and holding of a good correspondence with foreign kings, princes, and states, and also with the consent of the major part of the council have the power of war and peace.
6. That the laws shall not be altered, suspended, abrogated, or repealed, nor any new law made, nor any tax, charge, or imposition laid upon the people but by common consent in Parliament, save only as is expressed in Article 30.
7. That there shall be a Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster upon the third day of September, 1654; and that successively a Parliament shall be summoned once in every third year, to be accounted from the dissolution of the preceding Parliament.
8. That neither the Parliament to be next summoned, nor any successive Parliaments, shall, during the time of five months, to be accounted from the day of their first meeting, be adjourned, prorogued, or dissolved without their own consent.
9. That as well the next as all other successive Parliaments, shall be summoned and elected in manner hereafter expressed. That is to say, the persons to be chosen within England, Wales, the Isles of Jersey and Guernsey, and the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed to sit and serve in Parliament shall be, and not exceed, the number of four hundred. The persons to be chosen within Scotland to sit and serve in Parliament shall be, and not exceed, the number of thirty. And the persons to be chosen to sit in Parliament for Ireland shall be, and not exceed, the number of thirty.
10. That the persons to be elected to sit in Parliament from time to time for the several counties of England, Wales, the Isles of Jersey and Guernsey, and the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and all places within the same respectively, shall be according to the proportions and numbers hereafter, that is to say,

For the County of Bedford—six; *viz.*,
For the Town of Bedford: 1
For the County of Bedford: 5

For the County of Berks—seven; *viz.*,
For the Borough of Abingdon: 1
For the Borough of Reading: 1
For the County of Berks: 5

- For the County of Bucks—eight, *viz.*,
 For the Town of Buckingham: 1
 For the Borough of Alesbury: 1
 For the Borough of Wycombe: 1
 For the County of Bucks: 5
- For the County of Cambridge and Isle of Ely—eight; *viz.*,
 For the Town of Cambridge: 1
 For the University of Cambridge: 1
 For the Isle of Ely: 2
 For the County of Cambridge: 4
- For the County of Chester—five, *viz.*,
 for the City of Chester: 1
 for the County of Chester: 4
- For the County of Cornwall—twelve, *viz.*,
 for the Borough of Dunishwet: 1
 for the Borough of Truro: 1
 for the Borough of Pencyn: 1
 for the Boroughs of Eastlow and Westlow: 1
 for the County of Cornwall: 8
- For the County of Cumberland—three, *viz.*,
 for the City of Carlisle: 1
 for the County of Cumberland: 2
- For the County of Derby—five, *viz.*,
 for the Town of Derby: 1
 for the County of Derby: 4
- For the County of Devon—twenty, *viz.*,
 the City of Exeter: 2
 the Borough of Plymouth: 2
 the Borough of Dartmouth, Clifton, and Hardness: 1
 the Borough of Totness: 1
 the Borough of Barnstable: 1
 the Borough of Tiverton: 1
 the Borough of Honyton: 1
 the County of Devon: 11
- For the County of Dorset—ten, *viz.*,
 the Borough of Dorchester: 1
 the Borough of Weymouth and Melcomb-Regis: 1
 the Borough of Lyme-Regis, one,
 the Town and County of Pool: 1
 the County of Dorset, six.
- For the County of Burham—three, *viz.*,
 for the City of Durham: 1
 for the County of Durham: 2
- For the County of York—twenty-two, *viz.*,
 for the City of York: 2
 for the Town of Kingston upon Hull: 1
 for the Borough of Beverley: 1
 for the Borough of Scarborough: 1
 for the Borough of Richmond: 1
 for the Town of Leeds: 1
 for the Town and parish of Hallifax: 1
 for the County of York: 14; *viz.*,
 West Riding: 6
 East Riding: 4
 North Riding: 4
- For the County of Essex—sixteen, *viz.*,
 for the Borough of Maldon: 1
 for the Borough of Colchester: 2
 for the County of Essex: 13
- For the County and the City of Gloucester—nine, *viz.*,
 for the City of Gloucester: 2
 for the Borough of Tewksbury: 1
 for the Borough of Cirencester: 1
 for the County of Gloucester, except the said City: 5
- For the County of Hereford—six, *viz.*,
 for the City of Hereford: 1
 for the Borough of Leompster: 1
 for the County of Hereford: 4
- For the County of Hartford—seven, *viz.*,
 for the Town of Saint Alban: 1
 for the Borough of Hartford: 1
 for the County of Hartford: 5
- For the County of Huntingdon—four, *viz.*,
 for the Borough of Huntingdon: 1
 for the County of Huntingdon: 3
- For the County of Kent—eighteen, *viz.*,
 for the City of Canterbury: 2
 for the City of Rochester: 1
 for the Borough of Maydston: 1
 for the Port of Dover: 1
 for the Port of Sandwich: 1
 for the Borough of Quinborough: 1
 for the County of Kent: 11
- For the County of Lancaster—eight, *viz.*,
 for the Borough of Pieston in Anderness: 1
 for the Borough of Lancaster: 1
 for the Borough of Liverpool: 1
 for the Town and Parish of Manchester: 1
 for the County of Lancaster: 4
- For the County of Leicester—six, *viz.*,
 for the Borough of Leycester: 2
 for the County of Leycester: 4
- For the County of Lincoln—sixteen, *viz.*,
 for the City of Lincoln: 2
 for the Town of Boston: 1
 for the Borough of Grantham: 1
 for the Town of Stamford: 1
 for the Town of Great Grimsby: 1
 for the County of Lincoln: 10
- For the County of Middlesex—six, *viz.*,
 for the City of Westminster: 2
 for the County of Middlesex: 4
- For the City of London—six.
- For the County of Monmouth—three
- For the County of Northfolk—sixteen, *viz.*,
 for the City of Norwich: 2
 for the Town of Lynne Regis: 2
 for the Town of Great Yarmouth: 2
 for the County of Northfolk: 10

For the County of Northampton—eight, *viz.*,
for the City of Peterborough: 1
for the Town of Northampton: 1
for the County of Northampton: 6

For the County of Nottingham—six, *viz.*,
for the town of Nottingham: 2
for the County of Nottingham: 4

For the County of Northumberland—five, *viz.*,
for the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne: 1
for the Town of Berwick: 1
for the County of Northumberland: 3

For the County of Oxford—eight, *viz.*,
for the City of Oxford: 1
for the University of Oxford: 1
for the Borough of Woodstock: 1
for the County of Oxford: 5

For the County of Rutland—two

For the County of Salop—eight, *viz.*,
for the Town of Shrewsbury: 2
for the Borough of Bruges, alias Bridgenorth: 1
for the Borough of Ludlow: 1
for the County of Salop: 4

For the County of Stafford—six, *viz.*,
for the City of Litchfield: 1
for town of Stafford: 1
for the Borough of Newcastle on the Line: 1
for the County of Stafford: 3

For the County of Somerset—sixteen, *viz.*,
for the Borough of Taunton: 2
for the City of Bath: 1
for the City of Wells: 1
for the Borough of Bridgewater: 1
for the County of Somerset: 11

For the City of Bristol—two

For the County of Southampton—fourteen, *viz.*,
for the City of Winchester: 1
for the Town of Southampton: 1
for the Town of Portsmouth: 1
for the Isle of Wight: 2
for the Borough of Andover: 1
for the County of Southampton: 8

For the County of Suffolk—sixteen, *viz.*,
for the Borough of Ipswich: 2
for the Borough of Bury Saint Edmonds: 2
for the Borough of Dunwich: 1
for the Borough of Sudbury: 1
for the County of Suffolk: 10

For the County of Surrey—ten, *viz.*,
for the Borough of Southwark: 2
for the Borough of Guildford: 1
for the Borough of Rygate: 1
for the County of Surrey: 6

For the County of Sussex—fourteen, *viz.*,
for the City of Chichester: 1
for the Borough of Lewis: 1
for the Borough of East Greenstead: 1
for the Borough of Arundel: 1
for the Borough of Rye: 1
for the County of Sussex: 9

For the County of Westmorland—two

For the County of Warwick—seven, *viz.*,
for the City of Coventry: 2
for the Borough of Warwick: 1
for the County of Warwick: 4

For the County of Worcester—seven, *viz.*,
for the City and County of the City of Worcester: 2
for the County of Worcester: 5

For the County of Wilts—fourteen, *viz.*,
for the City of New Sarum: 2
for the Borough of Marleborough: 1
for the Borough of the Devizes: 1
for the County of Wilts: 10

For the County of Anglesey—two

For the County of Brecon—two

For the County of Cardigan—two

For the County of Carmarthen—two

For the County of Carnarvon—two

For the County of Denbigh—two

For the County of Flint—two

For the County of Glamorgan—three, *viz.*,
for the Town of Cardiffe: 1
for the County of Glamorgan: 2

For the County of Merioneth—one

For the County of Montgomery—two

For the County of Pembroke—three, *viz.*,
for the Town of Haverfordwest: 1
for the County of Pembroke: 2

For the County of Radnor—two

The distribution of the persons to be chosen for Scotland, and the several counties, cities, and places within the same, shall be according to such proportions and number, as shall be agreed upon, and declared by the Lord Protector and the major part of the Council before the sending forth writs of summons for the next Parliament. The distribution of the persons to be chosen for Ireland, and the several counties, cities, and places within the same, shall be according to such proportions and number, as shall be agreed upon,

and declared by the Lord Protector and the major part of the Council before the sending forth writs of summons for the next Parliament.

11. That the summons to Parliament shall be by writ under the Great Seal of England, directed to the sheriffs of the several and respective counties, with such alteration as may suit with the present government, to be made by the Lord Protector and his Council, which the Chancellor, Keeper, or Commissioners of the Great Seal shall seal, issue, and send abroad by warrant from the Lord Protector. If the Lord Protector shall not give warrant for issuing of writs of summons for the next Parliament before 1 June 1654, or for the Triennial Parliaments before the first day of August in every third year, to be accounted as aforesaid; that then the Chancellor, Keeper, or Commissioners of the Great Seal for the time being shall, without any warrant or direction, within seven days after the said 1 June 1654, seal, issue, and send abroad writs of summons (changing therein what is to be changed as aforesaid) to the several and respective sheriffs of England, Scotland, and Ireland for summoning the Parliament to meet at Westminster, 3 September next, and shall likewise within seven days after the said first day of August, in every third year, to be accounted from the dissolution of the precedent Parliament, seal, issue, and send abroad several writs of summons, changing therein what is to be changed, as aforesaid, for summoning the Parliament to meet at Westminster 6 November in that third year. That the said several and respective sheriffs shall, within ten days after the receipt of such writs as aforesaid, cause the same to be proclaimed and published in every market-town within his county, upon the market-days thereof, between twelve and three of the clock; and shall then also publish and declare the certain day of the week and month for choosing members to serve in Parliament for the body of the said county, according to the tenor of the said writ, which shall be upon Wednesday five weeks after the date of the writ; and shall likewise declare the place where the election shall be made, for which purpose he shall appoint the most convenient place for the whole county to meet in, and shall send precepts for elections to be made in all and every city, town, borough, or place within his county where elections are to be made by virtue of these presents, to the major, sheriff, or other head offices of each city, town, borough, or place within three days after the receipt of such writ and writs, which the said majors, sheriffs, and officers respectively are to make publication of, and of the certain day for such elections to be made in the said city, town, or place aforesaid, and to cause elections to be made accordingly.
12. That at the day and place of elections, the sheriff of each county and the said majors, sheriffs, bailiffs, and other head-officers within their cities, towns, boroughs, and places respectively shall take view of the said elections, and shall make return into the Chancery within twenty days after the said elections of the persons elected by the greater number of electors, under their hands and seals, between him on the one part and the electors on the other part; wherein shall be contained that the persons elected shall not have power to alter the government as it is hereby settled in one single person and a Parliament.
13. That the sheriff who shall wittingly and willingly make any fail return, or neglect his duty, shall incur the penalty of 2000 marks of lawful English money; the one moiety to the Lord Protector, and the other moiety to such person as will sue for the same.
14. That all and every person and persons who have aided, advised, assisted, or abetted in any war against the Parliament since 1 January 1641 (unless they have been since in the service of the Parliament, and given signal testimony of their good affections thereunto) shall be disabled and be incapable to be elected, or to give any vote in the election of any Members to serve in the next Parliament, or in the three succeeding triennial Parliaments.
15. That all such who have advised, assisted, or abetted the rebellion of Ireland shall be disabled and incapable forever to be elected, or to give any vote in the election of any Member to serve in Parliament, as also all such who do or shall profess the Roman Catholic Religion.

16. That all votes and elections given or made contrary, or not according to these qualifications, shall be null and void: And if any person who is hereby made incapable, shall give his vote for election of members to serve in Parliament, such person shall lose and forfeit one full years value of his real estate, and one full third part of his personal estate; one moyety thereof to the Lord protector, and the other moyety to him, or them who shall sue for the same.
17. That the persons who shall be elected to serve in Parliament shall be such (and no other than such) as are persons of known integrity, fearing God, and of good conversation, and being of the age of 21 years.
18. That all and every person and persons seized or possessed to his own use of any estate, real or personal, to the value of £200 and not within the aforesaid exceptions, shall be capable to elect Members to serve in Parliament for counties.
19. That the Chancellor, Keeper, or Commissioners of the Great Seal shall be sworn before they enter into their offices truly and faithfully to issue forth and send abroad writs of summons to Parliaments at the times and in the manner before expressed. And, in case of neglect or failure to issue and send abroad writs accordingly, he or they shall for every such offence be guilty of high treason, and suffer the pains and penalties thereof.
20. That in case writs be not issued out, as is before expressed, but that there be a neglect therein, 15 days after the time wherein the same ought to be issued out by the Chancellor, Keeper, or Commissioners of the Great Seal, that then the Parliament shall, as often as such failure shall happen, assemble and be held at Westminster, in the usual place, at the times prefixt, in manner and by the means hereafter expressed. That is to say, that the sheriffs of the several and respective counties, shrievedoms, cities, boroughs, and places aforesaid within England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the Mayor and bailiffs of the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed, and other the places aforesaid respectively shall at the several courts and places to be appointed as aforesaid, within 30 days after the said 15 days, cause such Members to be chosen for their said several and respectable counties, shrievedoms, universities, cities, boroughs, and places aforesaid by such persons and in such manner as if several and respective writs of summons to Parliament under the Great Seal had issued and been awarded according to the tenor abovesaid. That if the sheriff or other persons authorized shall neglect his or their duty herein, that all and every such sheriff and person authorized as aforesaid so neglecting his or their duty shall, for every such offence, be guilty of high treason, and shall suffer the pains and penalties thereof.
21. That the clerk called the Clerk of the Commonwealth, in Chancery for the time being, and all others who shall afterwards execute that office, to whom the returns shall be made, shall for the next Parliament, and the two succeeding triennial Parliaments, the next day after such return, certify the names of the several persons so returned, and of the places for which he and they were chosen respectively, unto the Council, who shall peruse the said returns, and examine whether the persons to elected and returned be such as is agreeable to the qualifications, and not disabled to be elected. And that every person and persons being so duly elected, and being approved of by the major part of the Council to be persons not disabled, but qualified as aforesaid, shall be esteemed a Member of Parliament and be admitted to sit in Parliament, and not otherwise.
22. That the persons chosen and assembled in manner aforesaid, or any sixty of them, shall be and be deemed the Parliament of England, Scotland, and Ireland; and the supreme legislative power to be and reside in the Lord Protector and such Parliament, in manner herein expressed.
23. That the Lord Protector, with the advice of the major part of the Council, shall at any other time than is before expressed, when the necessities of the state shall require it, summon Parliaments in manner before expressed, which shall not be adjourned, prorogued, or dissolved without their own consent during the

first three months of their sitting. And in case of future war with any foreign state, a Parliament shall be forthwith summoned for their advice concerning the same.

24. That all bills agreed unto by the Parliament shall be presented to the Lord Protector for his consent; and in case he shall not give his consent thereto within 20 days after they shall be presented to him, or give satisfaction to the Parliament within the time limited, that then, upon declaration of the Parliament that the Lord Protector has not consented nor given satisfaction, such bills shall pass into and become laws, although he shall not give his consent thereunto; provided such bills contain nothing in them contrary to the matters contained in these presents.
25. That Philip Viscount Lisle; Charles Fleetwood, Esquire; John Lambert, Esquire; Sir Gilbert Pickering, Baronet; Sir Charles Wolseley, Baronet; Sir Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Baronet; Edward Montagu, Esquire; John Desborow, Esquire; Walter Strickland, Esquire; Henry Lawrence, Esquire; William Sydenham, Esquire; Philip Jones, Esquire; Richard Major, Esquire; Francis Rous, Esquire; Philip Skippon, Esquire; or any seven of them, shall be a Council for the purposes expressed in this writing. And upon the death or other removal of any of them, the Parliament shall nominate six persons of ability, integrity, and fearing God for every one that is dead or removed, out of which the major part of the Council shall elect two, and present them to the Lord Protector, of which he shall elect one. And in case the Parliament shall not nominate within 20 days after notice given unto them thereof, the major part of the Council shall nominate three as aforesaid to the Lord Protector, who out of them shall supply the vacancy. And until this choice be made, the remaining part of the Council shall execute as fully in all things as if their number were full. And in case of corruption, or other miscarriage in any of the Council in their trust, the Parliament shall appoint seven of their numbers, and the Council six, who, together with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, or Commissioners of the Great Seal for the time being, shall have power to hear and determine such corruption and miscarriage, and to award and inflict punishment as the nature of the offence shall deserve; which punishment shall not be pardoned or remitted by the Lord Protector. And in the interval of Parliaments, the major part of the Council, with the consent of the Lord Protector, may, for corruption or other miscarriage as aforesaid, suspend any of their number from the exercise of their trust if they shall find it just, until the matter shall be heard and examined as aforesaid.
26. That the Lord Protector and the major part of the Council aforesaid may at any time before the meeting of the next Parliament add to the Council such persons as they shall think fit, provided the number of the Council be not made thereby to exceed 21, and the quorum to be proportioned accordingly by the Lord Protector and the major part of the Council.
27. That a constant yearly revenue shall be raised, settled, and established for maintaining of 10.000 horse and dragoons, and 20.000 foot, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the defence and security thereof, and also for a convenient number of ships for guarding of the seas; besides £200.000 per annum for defraying the other necessary charges for administration of justice and other expences of the government. Which revenue shall be raised by the customs and such other ways and means as shall be agreed upon by the Lord Protector and Council, and shall not be taken away or diminished, nor the way agreed upon for raising the same altered, but by the consent of the Lord Protector and the Parliament.
28. That the said yearly revenue shall be paid into the public treasury, and shall be issued out for the Isles aforesaid.
29. That in case there shall not be cause hereafter to keep up so great a defence at land or sea, but that there be an abatement made thereof, the money which will be saved thereby shall remain in bank for the public service, and not be employed to any other use but by consent of Parliament; or, in the intervals of Parliament, by the Lord Protector and major part of the Council.

30. That the raising of money for defraying the charge of present extraordinary forces both at land and sea, in respect of the present wars, shall be by consent in Parliament and not otherwise; save only that the Lord Protector, with the consent of the major part of the Council, for preventing the disorders and dangers which may otherwise fall out both at sea and land, shall have power, until the meeting of the first Parliament, to raise money for the purposes aforesaid, and also to make laws and ordinances for the peace and welfare of these nations where it shall be necessary, which shall be binding and in force, until order shall be taken in Parliament concerning the same.
31. That the lands, tenements, rents, royalties, jurisdictions, and hereditaments which remain yet un-sold or un-disposed of by act or ordinance of Parliament belonging to the Commonwealth (except the forests and chases, and the honors and manors belonging to the same; the lands of the rebels in Ireland lying in the four counties of Dublin, Cork, Kildare, and Carlow; the lands forfeited by the people of Scotland in the late wars; and also the lands of Papists and delinquents in England who have not yet compounded) shall be vested in the Lord Protector to hold, to him and his successors, Lord Protectors of these nations, and shall not be aliened but by consent in Parliament. And all debts, fines, issues, amerciements, penalties, and profits, certain and casual, due to the keepers of the liberties of England by authority of Parliament, shall be due to the Lord Protector, and be payable into his public receipt, and shall be recovered and prosecuted in his name.
32. That the office of the Lord Protector over these nations shall be elective and not hereditary, and upon the death of the Lord Protector, another fit person shall be forthwith elected to succeed him in the government, which election shall be by the Council; who, immediately upon the death of the Lord Protector, shall assemble in the chamber where they usually sit in Council, and having given notice to all their number of the cause of their assembling, shall, being thirteen at least present, proceed to the election; and before they depart out of the said chamber shall elect a fit person to succeed in the government, and forthwith cause proclamation thereof to be made in all the three nations as shall be requisite. And the person that they or the major part of them shall elect, as aforesaid, shall be and shall be taken to be Lord Protector over these nations of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging. Provided that none of the children of the late King, nor any of his line or family, be elected to be Lord Protector or other chief magistrate over these nations, or any the dominions thereto belonging. And until the aforesaid election be past, the Council shall take care of the government and administer in all things as fully as the Lord Protector, or the Lord Protector and Council are enabled to do.
33. That Oliver Cromwell, Captain-General of the forces of England, Scotland, and Ireland, shall be and is hereby declared to be Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, for his life.
34. That the Chancellor, Keeper or Commissioners of the Great Seal, the Treasurer, Admiral, chief governors of Ireland and Scotland, and the Chief Justices of both the benches shall be chosen by the approbation of Parliament; and in the intervals of Parliament, by the approbation of the major part of the Council, to be afterwards approved by the Parliament.
35. That the Christian religion, contained in the Scriptures, be held forth and recommended as the public profession of these nations; and that as soon as may be a provision less subject to scruple and contention, and more certain then the present, be made for the encouragement and maintenance of able and painful teachers for instructing the people, and for discovery and confutation of error, heresy, and whatever is contrary to sound doctrine. And that, until such provision be made, the present maintenance shall not be taken away nor impeached.
36. That to the public profession held forth, none shall be compelled by penalties or otherwise, but that endeavors be used to win them by sound doctrine, and the example of a good conversation.

37. That such as profess faith in God by Jesus Christ (though differing in judgment from the doctrine, worship, or discipline publicly held forth) shall not be restrained from, but shall be protected in the profession of the faith and exercise of their religion, so as they abuse not this liberty to the civil injury of others, and to the actual disturbance of the public peace on their parts, provided this liberty be not extended to popery or prelacy, nor to such as, under the profession of Christ, hold forth and practise licentiousness.
38. That all laws, statutes, ordinances, and clauses in any law, statute and ordinance to the contrary of the aforesaid liberty shall be esteemed as null and void.
39. That the acts and ordinances of Parliament made for the sale or other disposition of the lands, rents, and hereditaments of the late King, Queen, and Prince, of archbishops and bishops, etc., deans and chapters, the lands of delinquents, and forest lands, or any of them, or of any other lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments belonging to the Commonwealth, shall no way be impeached or made invalid, but shall remain good and firm. And that the securities given by act and ordinance of Parliament for any sum or sums of money by any of the said lands, the excise, or by any other public revenue, and also the securities given up the public faith of the nation, and the engagement of the public faith for satisfaction of debts and damages, shall remain firm and good, and not be made bold and invalid upon any pretence whatsoever.
40. That the articles given to or made with the enemy, and afterwards confirmed by Parliament, shall be performed and made good to the persons concerned therein. And that such appeals as were depending in the last Parliament for relief concerning bills of sale of delinquents estates may be heard and determined the next Parliament, anything in this writing or otherwise to the contrary notwithstanding.
41. That each person of the council shall, before they enter upon their trust, take and subscribe an oath that they will be true and faithful in their trust, according to the best of their knowledge. And, that in the election of every successive Lord Protector, they shall proceed therein impartially, and do nothing therein for a promise, fear, favor, or reward.

Walter Scott, *A Collection of Scarce and Valuable Tracts* (London: Cadell and Davies, 1811), VI:285–296.