

## Lords' Petition (3 September 1640)

Francis Russell, 4th Earl of Bedford, Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, Robert Rich, 2nd Earl of Warwick, William Fiennes, Viscount Say and Sele, Robert Greville, Second Baron Brooke of Beauchamps Court, Edward Howard, First Baron North of Escrick, Henry Montagu, Viscount Mandeville and William Paget, 5th Baron Paget

### Transcript

British Library, Harley MS 4931, ff. 67r–67v

#### 67r

[*Left margin:* The Petition of the Lords, subscribed by 10 of them, & presented to the king at Yorke, Sept.3.1640. ] To the Kings most excellent Ma[jes]ty The humble Petition of yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties most loyall, & obedient Subj[ec]ts, whose names are here underwritten, in [th]e behalfe of [the]ms[el]ve[s], & of divers others.

Most Gracious Sovereigne,

The sense of [tha]t duty, & service, w[hi]ch we owe yo[u]r sacred Ma[jes]ty, & earnest affection to the good, & wellfare of this yo[u]r Realme of England, haue moved us in all humi-lity to beseech yo[u]r royall ma[jes]ty to giue us leaue to offere to yo[u]r Princely wis-dome the appr[e]hension, w[hi]ch we, & other of yo[u]r faithfull Subj[ec]ts haue conceived, of the g[rea]t distempers, & dangers now threatning the Church, & state, & yo[u]r Royall p[er]son, & of the fittest meanes by w[hi]ch they may be removed, & prevented.

The evils, & dangers, of w[hi]ch yo[u]r ma[jes]ty may be pleased to take notice of, are these.

That yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties sacred p[er]son is exposed to hazard, & danger in [th]e pr[e]sent eon<sup>expe</sup>dition a-gainst the Scottish Army; And by occasion of [th]is warre, yo[u]r revenue is much wasted, yo[u]r subj[ec]ts burdened w[i]th ~~gap: illegible~~ coate, & conduct mony; Billeting of souldiers, & other Military charges; & divers Rapines, & Disorders committed in severall p[ar]tes of this yo[u]r Realme, by the souldiers raised for [tha]t service, & yo[u]r whole kingdome is become full of feares, & discontents.

The sundry innovations in matters of Religion, The Oath, & Canons lately impo-sed upon the cleargy, & other yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties Subi[ec]ts./.

The greate encrease of Popery, & the employing of <sup>Popish</sup> Recusants, & other ill affected to the Religion by law established, in places of power, & trust, especially in com[m]anding of men, & Armes, both in the Field, & in severall Counties of this yo[u]r Realme, where as by [th]e Lawes ~~gap: illegible~~ they are not p[er]mitted to haue any in their Houses.

The greate mischiefes w[hi]ch may fall upon this kingdome, if the intentions, w[hi]ch haue bene credibly reported, of bringing in Irish, & Forraine forces shold take effect.

The urging of sp shipp-mony, & the prosecution of some Sheriffes in the Starr-chamber for not levying it.

The heavy charge upon Merchandize, to the discouraging of trade, The Mul-titude of Monopolies, & other Patents, whereby the Commodities, & Manufactures of the kingdome are much burdened, to the greate, & universall grievance of [th]e People.

The greate Subj[ec]ts grieffe of yo[u]r Subj[ec]ts by the long intermission of Parliam[en]ts, & [th]e late, & former dissolving of such as haue beene called, w[i]thout the happy effect, w[hi]ch otherwise they might haue produced.

For the redresse wherof, & prevention of the dangers w[hi]ch may ensue to yo[u]r royall p[er]son, & to the whole state, they doe in all humility & faithfulness beseech yo[u]r most Excellent ma[jes]ty, that yo[u] wold be pleased to summon a Parliament w[i]thin some shorte, & convenient time, wherby the causes of these, & other greate grievances, w[hi]ch yo[u]{r} {r} people lye under, may be taken away, & the Authours, & Counsellors of [the]m may be there brought to such legall tryall, & condigne punishm[en]t, as the nature of [thei]r Severall Offences shall require. And that the pr[e]sent warre may be composed, by yo[u]r ma[jes]ties wisdome, w[i]thout blood, in such a manner as may conduce to the honour, & safety of yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties p[er]son, the comfort of yo[u]r People, & the uniting of both yo[u]r kingdomes against the Common Enemies of the reformed Re-ligion. [*Left margin: Presented to the King at his Court at yorke Septemb.3. 1640./* ]

And yo[u]r Ma[jes]ties Petitioners shall ever pr{ay}

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- Subscribed by
- Earle of Bedford.
- Earle of Essex.
- Earle of Warwick.
- Viscount Say, & Seale.
- Lord Brooke.
- Lord Pagett.
- Lord Howard.
- Lord Maundevile.

### Other manuscript witnesses

- All Souls College, MS 125, ff. 89r–90r
- British Library, Additional MS 22959, ff. 65r–66r
- British Library, Additional MS 35331, f. 78r
- British Library, Additional MS 44848, ff. 283v–284r
- British Library, Harley MS 7162, ff. 51x–52x
- British Library, Harley MS 787, ff. 98r–v
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 1232, ff. 67v–68v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1467, ff. 132r–132v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1710, ff. 118r–v
- British Library, Sloane MS 1710, ff. 119r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 33469, ff. 48r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 38847, ff. 24r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 57929, ff. 9v–10v
- British Library, Additional MS 70002, ff. 302r–303v
- British Library, Additional MS 70082, item 26
- British Library, Harley MS 1219, ff. 175r–179v
- Beinecke Library, OSB MSS 28, Box 2, Folder 25, item 41, 524r–v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn File 12397, ff. 1r–v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn File 6183, ff. 1–3

- Beinecke Library, Osborn b297, item 11
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 800, ff. 110v–111v
- Bodleian Library, MS Carte 119, ff. 89r–91v
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, ff. 13r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, ff. 16r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 908, ff. 42r–43v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 103r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, f. 105r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 140r–141r
- Cornwall Record Office, T 1608/3
- Cambridge University Library, Additional MS 335, f. 41r
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.192, ff. 46r–48r
- Huntington Library, EL 7872
- Kent Archives, U269/O294, item 11
- Kent Archives, U386/O7/1
- Kent Archives, U951/O10, item 5
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2603
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2608
- Northamptonshire Record Office, FH2619
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3565
- Northamptonshire Record Office, IC 3566
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/42
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/RO/1/72, ff. 286–310
- Surrey History Centre, LM/1331/50
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /16 [ff.33r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /17 [ff.37r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /18 [ff.39r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /19A [ff.40r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /19B [ff.41r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /20 [ff.42r–43r]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /21 [ff.44r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /22 [ff.46r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /23 [ff.47r–v]
- The National Archives, SP 16/465, /24 [ff.48r–v]
- Trinity College, MS O.1.35, Part II, 1r–v

### **Seventeenth-century print exemplars**

- J[ohn] M[ilton], *Newes from Hell, Rome and the Inns of Court* (1641) [Wing M42A], pp. 8–10
- J[ohn] M[ilton], *News from Hell, Rome, and the Innes of Court* (1642) [Wing M2131], pp. 8–10

### **Modern print exemplars**

- *The Harleian Miscellany* (1st ed.), vol. 7, pp. 205–206