

*The Comment.*

**T**Reason is derived from *Trahir*, which signifies, treacherously to betray : When it concerns the Government and the Publick, 'tis called High Treason, but against particular Persons, as a Wife killing her Husband, a Servant his Master, &c. it is Petty Treason.

High Treason, in the Civil Law, is called *Crimen Laesæ Majestatis*, a Crime wronging Majesty ; but in our Common Law-Latin, *Alta Proditio*, and in an Indictment for this Offence, the Word *Proditorie* must be in.

Before the making this Act, so many things were charged as High-Treason, that no Man knew how to behave himself : Now by this Statute, the Particulars of that Grand Crime are reckoned up, and all others excluded, till declared by Parliament. And the settling of this Affair was esteemed of such Importance to the Publick Weal, that the Parliament wherein this Act passed, was called long after, *Benedictum Parliamentum*, The Blessed Parliament.

The Substance of this Statute is branched out by my Lord Coke, 3d Part of *Instit.* fol. 3. into six Heads, *viz.*

The first concerning Death, by compassing or imagining the Death of the King, Queen, or Prince, and declaring the same by some Overt-deed. By killing and murdering the Chancellor, Treasurer, Justices of Assize, Justices of either Bench, Justices in Eyre, Justices of Oyer and Terminer, in their Places doing their Offices.

The second is to violate, that is, to carnally know the Queen, the King's eldest Daughter unmarried, the Prince's Wife.

The