

This the Commons refused, and to provide for their own Security, they ordered a Guard of the City Trained Bands, to be commanded by Coll. Skippen, and another Guard upon the *Tower*, and sent Sir *John Horbarn* to *Hull*, to command that Town, and to secure the Magazine of Arms there.

But still to quiet the Minds of the People, the King sent a Message to both Houses in Writing, desiring them seriously to consider what should be necessary to support his Royal Authority, and to establish the Religion, Privileges and Liberties of the People, and that when they had entered into such serious Considerations, they should see how ready he would be, to regard the Examples of the most indulgent of Princes, and concludes, That if the present Distractions do not end in a Accommodation, that he hath not failed on his Part.

To this Message the Commons alone returned an Answer, by way of Petition, (*viz.*) That to give them asure Confidence in what he intended, he would be pleased forthwith to put the *Tower* of *London* and also the *Militia* into the Hands of such Persons who should be recommended to him by that House.

The King replied, that he hoped his Message which he had sent to them, would have produced some better Effect; that as for the *Tower*, he had already committed it to the Government of Sir *John Byron*, a Person of Fortune and Integrity, but that he would remove him if they had any thing material to object against him; as for the *Forts*, they should be always in the Hands of such Persons as the Parliament might confide in, but that it was his Prerogative to name those Persons; and as for the *Militia*, when they should propose any Course for settling it, which he should think was for the Security of the Kingdom, he would then return