

mained till the King passed the Bill for disabling the whole Order to sit and vote in Parliament.

The Bishops being thus excluded, and several Popish and other Lords frighted from their Attendance, and many Petitions coming from Counties and Cities, and particularly from *Oxford*, some desiring that the Popish Lords might be put out of the House, others that the Kingdom might be put in a Posture of Defence; the Majority of the Lords remaining in the House, who upon the 26th of *January* refused to join with the Commons, did on the 2d of *February* following upon a Motion of Mr. *Hollis* at a Conference join with them in a Petition to the King, that the Nation might be put in a Posture of Defence, setting forth the Calamities, in which the Kingdom was involved, and the Danger which threatned the King; and tho' they received his written Messlage with Thankfulness, and would have earnestly pursued his Proposals therein, yet for the Safety of his Person, and for removing all Jealousies between him and his People, and for suppressing the Rebellion in *Ireland*, they humbly insisted that he would put the *Tower of London*, the Forts and Militia in such Persons Hands whom they should recommend to him, and concluded that they expected his immediate Answer, because the Distractions of the Kingdom would admit of no Delay.

The King replied, That he had considered their Petition, and when he should know the Extent of the Power which was intended to be established in those Persons whom they desired to be Officers of the Militia, and to what Time it should be limited, then he would declare himself contented to put in all Places, both of his Forts and of the Militia, such Persons, as both Houses should approve or recommend to him, so that they would declare their Names before-hand to him.

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