

On the 25th of *August*, the King set up his Standard at *Nottingham*; but as soon as he camethither, he sent a Message to the two Houses, intimating that some Mistakes had arisen by several Messages, Petitions, Answers and Replications which had passed between them, and which might have been prevented by a nearer Treaty; he therefore proposed that either Side should give Power to fit Persons, to treat and conclude all Differences between them, promising not only Safety, but Encouragement, to those who should be enabled by the Parliament to treat; and concludes, that if this Proposal be rejected, God would absolve him from the Guilt of the Blood which must be shed.

The Parliament returned an Answer, refusing to enter into any Treaty, till the King had recalled his Declaration, by which he declared the Earl of *Essex*, and both Houses of Parliament, with all their Adherents to be Traitors, intimating, that while they remained Traitors they could not by the Fundamental Privileges of Parliament make any other Answer, but desired him to take down his Standard.

The King protested, That he never intended to declare both Houses Traitors, or set up his Standard against them; and to remove all Scruples, he promised, if they would revoke their Declarations against all Persons who assisted him, to be Traitors, he would on the same Day recall his Proclamations and Declarations, and would also take down his Standard.

The two Houses answered, That they could not recede from their former Answer, and positively insisted that the King would recall his Declarations first, and take down his Standard, and leave his Forces, and return to his Parliament; intimating, that they would not be set in equal Ballance with those, whose Counsels had prevailed to hinder the Relief of *Ireland*: And at the same time they set forth