

OBSERVATOR,

The Observators Commission Question'd. His Vindication and Defence. The Veneration he has for All his Superiors, Ecclesiastical, and Civil. What is Trimming. A Coffee-House Sham. Rods in Pifs for the Observer.

Thursday, October 2. 1684.

TRIMMER. Well Well! You are Resolv'd, I perceive, to run-on still, *Hand over Head*: but 'faith, Nobs, Your Best days are done. There will come a Time of Reck'ning for these Matters at Last; and you should do well to Consider the End of Things, before y^e are gone too far. You have rais'd a Great Number of Powerfull Enemies: All men of Sobriety are Lash'd in the Character of your Trimmers. Men of Bus'ness, Religion, State; Nothing comes amiss to ye, when you are upon the Magisterial Pin, forsooth, of Animadverting upon the Iniquities of the Nation; and Prescribing, by your Own Authority, the Metes, and Bounds of Publique Duties. Pray what Commission have you to Play the Censor, and Dictator, at this rate? As if Your Judgment, and Opinion, were to be the Test, Measure, and Standard of Honesty, and Good Manners. [You, that Whilome Piss'd upon Parliaments, & with the Dash of your Pen Damn'd Charters.] (As your Penny-Post-Letter has it; and it was no Idle Reproof) Can you be so Vain now, as to Imagine that These Liberties shall ever Pass-off thus, without Account? But you'l Hear more on't Suddenly, from the Press, I believe; and That to Some Tune too; if my Intelligence be not much Mistaken.

OBSERVATOR. Threescore and Eight's the WORD Trimmer; and One Grain of Honesty, is worth a Pound of Interest to a man under my Circumstances. (Or in Truth, under Yours, or under Any body's:) But dost thou think that I talk at Random? Or that I Walk Blindfold; without Computing upon Causes, and Events; or without seeing the way before me? I have Enemies, I know; and I know what sort of Men they are; and I know why they are so; and I know again; That whoever Sides with the Faction, against the Observer, is an Enemy to the Publique, as well as to Me: For he takes part with Every Sect of the Schism, that are at This time Unanimously Open-Mouth'd in the Controversy. Nay, he takes part with 'em, in the Defence of the Schism it self; and in a Cause, where the Faction were the Aggressors; and wherein, I have Supported my self with Truth, and Modesty, in Return to the Ribaldry, and Falsities, that have been Charg'd upon me: And it is not the Person, on Either hand, but the Cause it self that lies at Stake. If they have Power (as you say) to Crush Me; it will not Stop There: For 'tis a Great Point Gain'd, to make it Dangerous, for a man, Openly to Defend the Government, against the Manifest Practices of a Confederacy to Undermine, or Subvert it: And 'tis a Damn'd Cheat too; to Pretend that I Lash Sober Men under the Notion of Trimmers; when the Juggle is on 'Tother side, in putting Counterfeits, and Trimmers upon us, for Sober, Honest Men: And I do Assure ye, the making of Hypocrites pass for Current in a State, is Forty times a Greater Abuse upon a Government, then (Bating the Oath at the End on't) Dangerfields Guineys. Now for the Men of Bus'ness, (you speak of) Religion, and State. I do not Meddle with any man's Profession,

Character, or Fivition: But wheresoever I have had Occasion to Discourse upon That Subject; No Man living has Ascrib'd more to the Advantages of Industry then I have done; Or pay'd a more Affectionate Deference to Holy Orders, or to the Image of his Sacred Majesty in Any of his Ministers. But the Seditious Part of the City in the Late Rebellion, were never the less Traytors, because they were Merchants; Our Late Common-Hall Stricklers, and True-Protestant Jurors, were never the less Hypocrites, and Ignoramuses, for being Men of Bus'ness. Were the Assembly-Club of Divines ever the less Incendiaries for being Church-Men? Are the Spiriting Tribes of our Non-Cons, ever the less Schismaticques for being Clergymen? Or was the Late Noble Peer ever the less a Conspirator because the Hawkers Bawl'd-him-about in Effric for the Compleat Statesman? So that you must Distinguish betwixt what a man does As a Church-man, and the Thing that is done By a Church-man; and Beware the Churchmans Bus'ness: For Otherwise, the Cassock shall Excuse the Libeller; And a man of Privilege shall Expose Any Honest Man for an Impostor, a Spy, a Traytor; And when he comes to Vindicate himself, he is to be Flapt in the Mouth with a [Str you are none of his Diocesan.] Now to far is This from an Indignity Offer'd to an Ecclesiastical Person, That where Any such Case happens, I cannot do the Church a Greater Right, then to lay him Open; Especially where the Question is of a Civil, and so Scandalous, a Quality: And now Trimmer, to shew ye the Respect I have for the Due Methods of Order, and Application, in such a Case: There was a Person of as Flagitious a Life, and Conversation; And of as Rank a Dis-affectation to the Government as any man I ever knew under His Circumstances. This Person had such a Recommendation to a Right Reverend Prelate, (for whom I have a Just Veneration) as a man Qualify'd for a very Considerable Advantage that lay then before him, that the Man had Gain'd his Point, if I had not Interpos'd to the Preventing of it: So Great a Tenderness have I, both for the Church, and for the Governors of it. And as I told ye 'Tother day, Kings as well as Bishops may be Impos'd upon in Matters of This Nature: Nor is it any Reflexion upon Either of them, that they do not know All the Ill Men that are Under their Jurisdiction. You talk too of my Animadverting upon Iniquities, and Measuring-out of Publique Duties: Where I find False Principles, or Doctrines thrown-out, on purpose, to Seduce, and to Corrupt the Common People: Such Positions, I say, as hold forth Sedition, for Loyalty; Schism, for Gods Worship; and all manner of Licence, for Conscience: In these Instances, One Private Man, as I take it, has as much Right to Assert the Government, as Another has to Defame it; as much Right, I say, to put People Into the way, that are Wheedled Out on't, as Another man has to Mislead 'em. If That man be Accursed that leads the Blind out of the Way: Shall He be Accursed too, that Endeav-

vours to set them Right? This is, Effectually, my Crime, and my Case: And If I had seen a Train Laid to a Barrell of Powder, under the Kings Bed; and a True-Protestant-Faux creeping behind the Curtain, with a Lighred Match to give Fire to't: I could have held my Tongue, or my Hand, with as good a Conscience, even in That Instance, as in This Other; such were the Apprehensions I had, not only of a Sedition a Brewing, but of a Conspiracy, Ripe for Execution: And I was so Happy too; that the Practices of the Faction made Good Every Syllable of my Conjectures. Now if the Whole Band of Schismatiques have never been Able to Oppose, so much as the Colour of a Reasonable Objection, to the Ground of my Surmizes: (as they never did) And if the Things I fear'd, did as Naturally result from the Foundation of those Fears, as ever any Effect did from the Cause, or a Conclusion from the Premises: Let any man give me but the Shadow of One Honest Imagination, that the Observer is an Enemy to the Church, or a Make-bate in the State, (as That's my Charge) and I will give him an Eye out of my Head for't. [One honest Imagination] I say: For pray take Notice, that Rumbold finds better Quarter with these Gentlemen, than L'Estrange: And that in Rangeing themselves on the Phanatique Party, their Actions Proclaim their Opinions, and Discover their Affections. And what's the Business at Last? Why the Trimmers are got into the Tring-Room, and the Observer has taken up Ores'es Trade, of Peeping thorough Key-Holes, and Discover'd the Masquerade. In a word: The Conspiracy Marches under That Vizor; and the Liker they are to the Friends of the Government; the more Deadly they are, and the more Dangerous Enemies.

Trim. What a Pudder do you make with an Affectation of Cant, and Gibbrish! D'ye know what you Mean, when you talk of Trimming?

Obs. Oh Perfectly Well. I'll read ye the Mystery of it; and lay the Hypocrisy so Naked, before I have done, that you shall as Easily know a Trimmer from an Honest Man, as you shall know a Mustle from a Codlin: But if you'd have me speak to the Point, as it Stands Now; the Present Humour of Trimming is only a Post-poning of the Blunderbus, or Musquetoon. The Design will keep Cold; And 'tis but letting the Project of a Rebellion, lye-by, for a Fair Wind. You shall find in the Device of a Privy-Drawer, If the Knack will not do One Way, 'tis but turning it, End for End, and 'twill do, 'Tother. They begun at the Wrong End, with the Insurrection; And Now they are going Judas'es Way to Work, with a KISS; and the men with Swords, and Staves, are to come after.

Trim. You cannot Imagine how you have lost your self to All manner of purposes, in This Business of the Curate of Cripplegate. There was a Gentleman, upon Sunday night Last, in the Grecian-Coffee-House in Holborn, that was Speaking of it: [How Strange by you are Deserted now on a Sudden, by several of your Friends, that had a very Good Opinion of ye before; purely for Abusing Mr. Smythies.] Nay I'll tell ye what he said further, (Though I would it had not been so Publicque.) He told the Company, [that the Bishop of London sent for ye, and School'd ye Sufficiently for it;] And upon somebodys Doubting the Truth of what he said; He went over and over with it, at least half a dozen times; [That he spoke it upon his

Own Knowledge.] Had not you as good have been Quiet now?

Obs. And 'faith so had He too, Trimmer: For First, Mr Smythies is in a Peculiar; Wherein that Right Reverend Prelate does not Concern himself. 2ly. The Thing it self is so False, that there's not the least Colour for't. And 3ly. My Lord of London would Undoubtedly have heard Both Parts, before he would have Pronounc'd upon't: And when his Lordship should have Measur'd the Clearness of the Proceeding on My side, with the False, and Scandalous Outrages Reflected upon Me by the Other: I make no Question, but Mr Smythies would have been found to Deserve a very Severe Reproof; Especially Several Complaints having been Exhibited to That Reverend Prelate against Mr Smythies, for some of the very Matters that he Denies. I beg my Lords Pardon, for the Double-Right I am Oblig'd to do, in This Particular, as well to his Lordship, as to my self.

Trim. Well! There is a Gentleman, (who I believe, knows as much of This Affair as any body,) that Assures Me, there's a Tickling Answer in the Press for ye.

Obs. Heark ye, Trimmer: Betwixt Friends. If the Brains of the Whole Party were Distill'd into One Ink-Pot; And Every Drop on't Spilt upon That Answer, I would Value it no more, than a Squib upon the Popes Procession. Why I would give thee 50 Guineys, out of my Last Present, only to get Any man of Name, to put Pen to Paper upon't. Thou can't not Imagine, how I should Glory in the Honour of seeing some Latitudinary Rabby, bring-up the Curtis'es, and the Darbys, and the rest of the Host of Pillory'd Martyrs, that have born their Testimony against Episcopal Popery, and Monarchical Tyranny, in Defence of Treason, Sedition, and Schism. Oh! This Christianity at large, is a Heavenly, Healing Professor: You see what it has done already, toward the Reconciling of the Cross, & the Crescent; and Erecting an Alliance betwixt Christ, and Mahomet. Why We have been Troubled with the Palpitation of the heart here among us, ever since the Christian Idolaters Press'd so Hard upon Our Trusty Friends & Confederates, the True-Protestant-Turks and Jews in Buda. We Preach for 'em already; And I hope, when Liberty of Conscience comes in play, we shall have an Office, and Prayers for 'em too. [The Papists (says a Worthy Gentleman Last Sunday) are far worse then the Turks: because they Kill-men in Cold Blood that will not be of their Opinion. Now Our Trimmers are Safe, for Loosing any Blood in That Quarrel: For they'll never dye for an Opinion, let it be what it Will.]

Trim. You are still Girding at Ecclesiastical Matters, and Persons; as you were told 'tother day.

Obs. 'Tis a Foolish Trick I have gotten, Ever since the Great Turk Struck-up for an Ecclesiastical Person, and Turcism for an Ecclesiastical Matter. If I had been at his Elbow, when he was in the Killing Vein, I should have Whisper'd him, to take Those that Kill Kings, Archbishops and Prime Ministers in Cold Blood too, into his Consideration; and That would have been a Word in Season, for All the Tribes of our Dissenters: But to Conclude, I cannot for my Heart's Blood Reconcile the Pulpit, and the Desk, upon This Point: When a man Declares That the Papists are far Worse then the Turks, in the One; and yet Prays for our Gracious Queen Catharine in the Other.