

To His Grace, His Majesty's High Commissioner, and Honourable Estates of Parliament.

Additional Representation of Sir William Hope Deputy Governor of the Castle of Edinburgh, against a most Clamorous and Invective Petition, given in by Mr. William Gordon, and his Wife, against the said Sir William Hope, to this Honourable House, and by them remitted to the Committee for Contraverted Elections.

MR. *William Gordon* and his Wife having endeavoured to calumniate *Sir William Hope*, in a most scandalous and false Petition, which was lately given in to His Majesty's High Commissioner, and this Honourable House: And which being moved to be read, was remitted (together with a true Representation of some of the Matters of Fact, which was given in by the said *Sir William Hope*) to the Committee for Contraverted Elections, before which it is depending; yet seeing *Sir William's* Modesty in the foresaid Representation, gives it seems Occasion to the said *Mr. William Gordon* and his Wife to clamour about, and attempt to traduce the said *Sir William Hope* in all Companies, by endeavouring to cause him pass for the most rigid Taskman, and cruel Oppressor that ever was heard of; and least their unparalleled and unheard of Confidence should go too great a length, and have too much Influence upon some People, especially upon any of the Members of this Honourable House, to whom the said *Sir William Hope* is altogether unknown: Therefore, to expose the Malice and ill Nature of his Reviling Adversaries, (who deserve worse and harsher Names, for the Undiscreet Treatment he hath met with from them, and which he would give them, were it not for the Respect he bears to this Honourable House) he thinks himself indispensably obliged, to give a true and impartial Representation of some further Matters of Fact, whereby it will appear, whether *Mr. William Gordon* and his Wife have such true Grounds to complain of *Sir William Hope's* Procedure, as the said *Sir William* has just Cause, not only to become the Accuser and Complainer against them, but justly to resent their most scandalous and Unsupportable Traducing, and Unchristian Backbiting and Slandering, whereby it would seem, they maliciously design, if it were possible, to stain his Reputation; But, Thanks be to GOD, he is above their Malice, and Proof against the Venom of their False and Reviling Language, and all who are acquainted with him, know him to be a Person altogether free from the Imputation they would load him with: Therefore, not so much for the Vindication of his Cause, which is most just, as for obviating his Adversaries Malicious Designs of Calumniating, he candidly and ingenuously gives the following Narrative of some further Matters of Fact, than what were represented in his former Paper, all which shall be proven by several Witnesses, when required; And it is hoped, That this, together with what was contained in his former Paper, will be a sufficient Evidence, to convince not only this Honourable House, but all unbiassed People, how unjust *Mr. William Gordon* and his Wife have been all along to the said *Sir William Hope*, not only by their Malicious Revilings and Aspersions, but also in narrating the Matters of Fact, which, as narrated by them, are altogether false, and the very Reverse of which *Sir William* undertakes to prove, upon the highest Peril.

Sir William Hope Deputy Governor of the Castle of *Edinburgh*, Taskman of the Estate of *Balcomy*, in the Month of *January* last bypast, having ordered his Factor, to cause the Tenements of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen* deliver such a Quantity of their Farn Bolls, as he had sold to some Merchants at *Edinburgh*; The said *Mr. William Gordon* having notice thereof, did, by his Letter of Advice from *Edinburgh*, direct to one *Alexander Burnet*, order him to discharge the whole Tenements of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen*, to deliver any Bolls to *Sir William Hope*, or any others having his Orders for that effect: And if the said Tenements should not willingly observe his Commands as their Master, That then, and in that case, the said *Alexander Burnet* was to employ all the Assistance he could make about that place of the Countrey, to effectuate the said *Mr. Gordons* Commands; In Obedience to which Letter, the said *Alexander Burnet* did upon the first, second, or third days of *February* last, or one or other of the days of the said Month, discharge the whole Tenements of *Balcomy* and *Kilminnen*, to deliver any of their Farn Bolls to *Sir William Hope*, or any having his Order: And they not being willing to obey his unjust Commands, he convened a Rabble, a great part whereof were *Mr. William Gordon's* own servants, and

there, by all the rude methods, and hostile ways imaginable, did offer to stop the Delivery of the saids Farms, and gave all manner of Abuse and Hinderance to the saids Tennents, for delivering of their Farms, by taking away the Keyes of their Barn Doors, cutting their Sacks when on Horseback, and thereby damnified and lost a great part of their Corns, threw in Chaff, and such other Stuff among their dight Corns, and carried away their Sieves and Riddles, and thereby did a great dale of Prejudice and Abuse to the saids Tennents: And some of Sir *William's* Servants being informed thereof, and going to assist the saids Tennents, the said *Alexander Burnet*, and his Accomplices, did assault them with Fire Arms and Swords, some of which are in the said Sir *Williams* Custody, and particularly *Mary Gordon* Daughter to the said Mr. *William*, a Child of twelve years of Age, who carried secretly under some part of her Habit a long Household Knife, came privatly behind one of the said Sir *William's* Servants, and pulled up his Coat behind, that she might the easier thrust in the said Knife in his Back; but her Weakness not being able to effectuat her Design, the Man finding some sharp Weapon entering his Body, turned about, and took the Knife from her.

In the Moneth of *March* last bypast, the said Mr. *William Gordon*, as if he had been Heretor of the Estate of *Balcomy*, did convene the whole Tennents, and, in a Baron Court, told the whole Tennents, that in respect none of them were under Tack, therefore they behooved either to gratifie him, to suffer them to continue in their Possessions, otherways he, as Heretor, would give them Warning at the Paroch Church Doors, and Charges of Removing to sit from their Rooms at the ensuin Term; conform whereunto, the said Mr. *William Gordon* did cause give several of the Tennents Copies for that effect, and did cause serve publickly at the Church Door of *Crail*, a Warning against all those of the Tennents, who had not componed with him for their continuing in their Possessions as said is: And had not the saids Tennents been perswaded of Mr. *William Gordon's* being removed from the House and Teinds of *Balcomy* before this time, most part of the saids Tennents had left their Rooms at *Balcomy*, upon the account of these Warnings and Charges of Removing, and the constant Impositions and Exactions laid upon them by the said Mr. *Gordon*, and by this means, had made the half of the said Estate at least waste, and without Tennents.

In the Month of *May* last, the Teind Fishes of *Fifeness* being exposed to a publick Rouse by the Town of *Crail*, (to which they have an undoubted Right from the King, confirmed by Act of Parliament) the saids Teinds were set to *James Fairful* of *Kilduncan* for the behoof of the said Sir *William Hope*, he having offered most for them, as the said Act of Rouse under the Clerks hand will testify: The said *James Fairful* did at the Term of *Whitsunday* go to the Harbour of *Fifeness* to take Possession of the saids Teind Fishes, that being the time he was to enter thereto, where *Elisabeth Wood* Spouse to Mr. *William Gordon*, did appear with a great Crew of Men and Women, in an Insolent manner, and there she did by Violence take the saids Teind Fishes, and the day thereafter the said *James Fairful* having appointed one to draw the saids Teinds, who accordingly did it, the said *Elisabeth Wood* did go to *Fifeness*, and did break open the Door of the House where the saids Fishes were, and took them away, and carried with her a Fish Net of the poor Womans, to whom the House did belong: The saids Mr. *Gordon* did by the strength of hand continue in this unwarantable Practice till the Month of *August*; and that time there being something due of Custom and Anchorage at the said Harbour of *Fifeness*, the time of the *Herring Drove*, the said *James Fairful* did compear for his Interest as Tacksmen; and the said Mr. *Gordon* being informed thereof, he and his Wife did engage several People about that Place, and their own Servants, to fall upon the saids *James Fairful* and those who should assist him in collecting of the saids small Customs and Teinds, and Beat him, and with the hazard of his Life, as appears by the Sequel: And to effectuat their Barbarous and unchristian Design, the said Mr. *Gordon* did bring from the North of *Scotland* a Rude and Barbarous Fellow Named *Alexander Lumsden* alias *Gray Steel*, who was to Head the said Party so hounded out by the said Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife: In prosecuting of which, the said *Alexander Lumsden* did by the Advice of the said Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife, fall upon the said *James Fairful* without any Provocation, and unexpectedly did beat him over the Head with a great Tree, and had not some of his Neighbours and Friends been with him at the time, the said *Elisabeth Wood* being present herself, and the rest of her Accomplices, had certainly done her endeavour to have put her cruel Design in Execution against him.

Upon the 15, 16, or 17, days of the Month of *August* last, or one or other of the days of the said Month, the said *Elisabeth Wood* being informed, that *James Bell* Officer to the said Sir *William Hope*, was lodged in the House of one *Euphan Bell* in *Lammas green*, within the precinct of *Crail*, did go to the House of the said *Euphan Bell*, about five a Clock in the Morning, accompanied with the said *Alexander Lumsden* and some others her Associates, and there made a parti-

cular search for the said *James Bell*, thinking to have found him in his Bed, but he by providence was gone out of the House before they came there: And the said *Elisabeth Wood*, not finding the said *James Bell* himself, assaulted the poor Mans Wife and his Child in their Bed with a big Batton threatening no less then present Death, or at least, the cutting the Ears out of her Husbands head, if she could find him, or if he or she offered to come upon her Lands of *Balcomie*. This rude and unchristian Carriage, and the many Threatnings the said *Elisabeth Wood* made against the said *James Bell*, and his Wife, so frightned the poor Women, that ever to this very day she has never been so well in her Health and Judgement: And thereafter she went to *Fifness*, and there she threatned to set Fire to the one end of the Town, and burn to the other, if any of the said Fishers should pay any Teind to the said Sir *William*, or any having his Order: Upon this there was a Process of Riot, and disturbing the Peace, pursued against the said Mr. *Gordon* and his Wife, before the Sheriff of *Fife*, which being proved, they were enacted to find Caution of Lawborrows, which they did, yet since that time they have been guilty of as great, if not greater Insolences and Riots, and have continued still in their abuses, to a very high degree.

And the saids Fishers having payed some small thing for their Teind the time of the *Fering Drive*, the said Mr. *William Gordon*, did upon the 14, or 15 days of *October* last, or one or other of the days of the said Month, under the Cloud and Silence of Night, go to the said Town of *Fifness*, accompanied with his Wife, his Son, his whole Servants, and several others his Accomplices: And there in a most Rude and Barbarous manner, and in his ordinary Stile and set form of Swearing, did Assault one of the poor Fisher-men with a drawn Sword in his own House, and Thrust most desperately at the Man, but he having made his escape by providence, and by the assistance of Mr. *Gordons* Wife, she with some others of his Servants seising him in such a fit of Madness and distraction, fearing he should do some Murder about the place, master'd his Sword, with which he was so dissatisfied at his own Wife, that he threw her in a Puddle, got upon her with his Feet, and because she had been accessory to deliver him from such a Cruelty, he had almost put out her Life with his Feet: Thereafter, he continuing in his Malice and Wickedness against the saids Fishers, he got upon the Roof of one of their Houses himself, and ticklike caused all his Accomplices go up on the rest of them, and there did Turr and Break the Roofs of all the Houses in the Town, so that he made them Inhabitable: And thereafter, he without any legal Grounds, did at his own hand Rob the Fishers Nets, took several things out of their Houses to a good value; and did so frighten their Wives and Children with his dreadful Oaths, and cruel Threatnings, that hardly any of them came within their own Houses that Night for fear he had set fire in the Town in the Night time; and in a Day or two thereafter, he came to the said Town of *Fifness* in his ordinary Temper of Distraction and Wickedness, and there Swore many execrable Oaths, That if there were a Soul of them there in 24 Hours thereafter, he should burn the Town about them, and all they had, and the saids poor Fishers, and their Wives and Children, being so dreadfully Terrified by this horrid and cruel Method of Mr. *Gordons*, and not thinking of their Interest to trust their Lives, or what they had to the Mercy or Reverence of a Person in a manner Distracted, all of them were forced to leave the Place in a day thereafter, and went to *Crail* for shelter to them and their Families, where they remain to this day: By which Barbarous and unwarantable Practice, the poor Men, and their Wives, and Children, are now almost reduced to Beggary; He having at this time so drawn up their Boats to a full Sea, and hindered them the use of them for Fishing.

In the end of the said Month of *October*, the said Mr. *William Gordon* did convene the Tenents in a kind of Court, as he usually does when he is to give his Orders to them, and there he ordained those who had not componed with him, for continuing in their Rooms, to slit and remove immediatly from the Lands; by which means he forced several of the Tenents to give him Money to suffer them to continue in their Possession, notwithstanding that this Power belongs only to the said Sir *William Hope* as Tacksman; and those who would not satisfy him, he offered to dispossess them, by causing others strick their Ploughs upon their Rooms, and threatned likewise to take their Corns, and the plening of their Rooms from them, for payment and Satisfaction to him of their by-gone Rests (although the saids Rests do really only belong to the said Sir *William Hope*) and thereafter discharged the whole Tenents, under their highest Peril to deliver their Farms, or any part thereof, for this present year, to the said Sir *William Hope* as Tacksman, or to any other having his Orders: Now, after such Cruel, Barbarous, and most Illegal Treatment of the poor Tenents and Fisher-men, Sir *William* leaves it to the Judgment of this Honourable House, and all unprejudged People, to determine whether or not he be well used by Mr. *William Gordon*, his Wife, and their Accomplices, as a Tacksman who ought to be mentained in his reasonable

able Possession; and if they have just reason to traduce and calumniat the said Sir *William Hope* in all Companys, at the most Scandalous and Unchristian rate, that they do.

Sir *William* could say a great deal more, which would all tend to Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wifes disadvantage; and were he of their reviling Temper, could also pay them home in their own Coin; but as he thinks such Scandalous Language below any Gentleman, so not to cross his own Natural Inclination, he willingly forbears it.

Only he cannot omit, declaring to the World, with what Gratitude he is repayed by Mr. *William Gordon*, for releaving the said Mr. *William* out of Prison, where, in all probability he would have lyen and Rot, had not Sir *William Hope* by his own Inclination, and out of an extraordinary, and somewhat unusual Generosity, payed betwixt two and three Thousand Merks for him; and yet after he was released, such was his and his Wifes impudence, that they asserted in all Companys, That he was Incarcerat at the said Sir *William Hopes* instance; but after such unparalleled Ungratitude, what can be expected.

By all which it is most evident, how rude and indiscreet the said Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife have been to Sir *William Hope*, and especially, how unjustly Clamorous and Traducing, not only in their late Scandalous Petition, but in all their Discourse wherever they go, and that all that the said Sir *William Hope* did, was to secure his Right, and for peaceable Possession as Tacksman, for which the Souldiers were only sent over for his Assistance and Protection. And although that this pretended Riot was before His Majesty's Honourable Privy Council, and Sir *William* assoilzied therefrom, yet if there was any Escape against Form, (which was only the Souldiers going streight to *Balcomy*, instead of going in by *Couper of Fife* for the Sheriffs immediat Warrant, Sir *William* having intimat the Sequestration by the Sheriffs special Order) yet it was, what was not in the least designed, neither was there any the least prejudice done thereby to Mr. *William Gordon*, the only Intention of sending the Souldiers over, as said is, being to protect the said Sir *William Hope* in his Right, and poor oppressed Tennents and Fisher Men, against the Insults of Mr. *William Gordon*, who, notwithstanding of a Sequestration of the Teinds, as said is, by the Sheriff of *Fife*, for the said Sir *William Hope's* behoof, did nevertheless endeavour by all means to embazle and destroy them, until the said Sir *William Hope* was necessitat to interrupt him by the method aforesaid.

In respect of all which, the foresaid scandalous and false Petition given in by Mr. *William Gordon* and his Wife, ought not only to be rejected, but the Advisers and Drawers up of so Unworthy and Calumnious a Paper severely reprimanded by this Just and Honourable House, which, amongst other good things, will, it is hoped, take effectual Care to prevent the unjustly Calumniating, and endeavouring to Defame any of His Majesty's Leidges, but especially such as have the Honour to be imployed under the Government, and to carry His Majesty's Commission.