To the Kings most Excellent Maiestie

Soit droit fait come est desire.

Humbly shew unto our Soveraigne Lord the King, the Lords Spirituall and Temporall and Comons in Parliament assembled, That whereas it is declared and enacted by a Statute made in the time of the Raigne of King Edward the first commonly called *Statutum de Tallagio non concedendo* That no Tallage or Aide should be laide or levyed by the King or his Heires in this Realme without the good will and assent of the Archbishopp Bishopps Erles Barons Knights Burgesses and other the freemen of the Commonalty of this Realme. And by authority of Parliament holden in the five and twentith yeare of the raigne of King Edward the third it is declared and enacted That from thenceforth no person should be compelled to make any Loanes to the King against his will because such Loanes were against reason and the franchise of the Land. And by other Lawes of this Realme it is provided that none should be charged by any charge or impositon called a Benevolence nor by such like charge. By which the Subiects inheritance and other the good Lawes and Statutes of this Realme yor Subiects have inherited this freedome that they should not be compelled to contribute to any Tax Tallage Aide or other like charge not sett by common consent in Parliament. Yet nevertheles of late diverse Comissions directed to sundry Comissioners in severall Counties have issued by meanes whereof your people have been in diverse places assembled and required to lend certeine somes of money unto yor Maiestie And many of them upon their refusall or delay have had an oath administred unto them not warrantable by the Lawes or Statutes of this Realme and have been constreyned to become bownd to make appearance and geve attendance before your Privy Councell and in other places and others of them have been thereupon imprisoned confined and sundry other wayes molested and disquieted. And diverse other charges have been layd and levyed upon yor people in severall Counties by Lord Lieutenants Deputy Lieutenants Comissioners for Musters Justices of Peace and others by Commaund or direction from your Maiestie or yor Privy Councell against the Lawes and free customs of the Realme. And whereas also by the Statute called the great Charter of the liberties of England it is declared and enacted that no freeman may be taken or imprisoned or be disseised of his freehold or liberties or his free customs or be outlawed or exiled or any manner destroyed but by the lawfull Judgement of his Peeres or by the Lawe of the Land. And in the eight and twentith yeare of the raigne of King Edward the third it was declared and enacted by authority of Parliament that no man of what estate or condicon that he be should be put out of his land or tenements nor taken nor imprisoned nor disherited nor put to death without being brought to answere by due processe of Lawe. Nevertheles against the tenor of the said Statute and other the good Lawes and Statutes of this Realme yor Subiects have of late been imprisoned without any cause showed. And when for their deliverance they were brought before yor Iustices by yor Maiesties writts of *Habeas Corpus* there to undergoe and receive as the Court should order and their returnes retourned remanded to certifie the causes of their detayner no cause was certified but that they were detayned by yor Maiesties speciall comaund signified by the Lords of yor Privy Councell and yet were retourned back to severall prisons without being charged with any thing to which they might make answer according to the Lawe. And whereas of late great Companyes of Soldiers and Mariners have been dispersed into diverse Counties of the Realme and the inhabitants against their willes have been compelled to receive them into their houses and there to suffer them to sojourne against the Lawes and customes of this Realme and to the great grievance and vexation of the people. And whereas also by authority of Parliament in the five and twentith yeare of the raigne of King Edward the third it is declared and enacted That no man should be forejudged of life or limbe against the forme of the Great Charter and the Lawe of the Land. And by the said Great Charter and other the Lawes and Statutes of this yor Realme no man ought to be adiudged to death but by the Lawes established in this yor Realme either by the customes of the same Realme or by Act of Parliament. And whereas noe offendor of what kinde soever is exempted from the proceedings to be used and punishments to be inflicted by the Lawes and Statutes of this your Realme. Nevertheles of late tyme diverse Comissions under yor Maiesties Great Seale have issued forth by which certeine persons have been assigned and appointed Comissioners with power and authority to proceed within the land according to the Iustice of Martiall Lawe against such Souldiers or Mariners or other dissolute persons ioyning with them as should commit any murther Robbery felony mutiny or other outrage or misdemeanor whatsoever and by such summary course and order as is used to be executed to Martiall Lawe and as is used in Armyes in time of warre to proceed to the tryall and condemnation of such offenders and them to cause to be executed and put to death according to the lawe Martiall By colour whereof some of yor Maiesties Subiects have been by some of the said Comissioners put to death when and where if by the Lawes and Statutes of the land they had deserved death by the same Lawes and Statutes also they might and by noe other ought to have been iudged and executed. And also diverse grievous offenders by colour thereof claiming an exemption have escaped the punishments due to them by the Lawes and Statutes of this your Realme by reason that diverse of yor officers and Ministers of Iustice have upon pretence and colour thereof refused or forborne to proceed against such offenders according to the same Lawes and Statutes upon pretence that the said offenders were punishable only by Martiall Lawe and by authority of such Comissions as aforesaid. Which Comissions and all other of the like nature are wholly and directly contrary to the said Lawes and Statutes of this your Realme

They do therefore humbly pray yor most excellent Maiestie That noe man hereafter be compelled to make or yelde any gifte loane benevolence tax or such like charge without common consent by Act of Parliament. And that none be called to make answere or take such oath or to geve attendance or be confined or otherwise molested or disquieted concerning the same or for refusall thereof. And that no freeman in any such manner as is before mencioned be imprisoned or detayned. And that yor Maiestie would be pleased to remove the said Souldiers and Mariners and that your people may not be soe burthened in time to come. And that the aforesaid Comissions for proceeding by Martiall Lawe may be revoked and annulled and that hereafter noe Comissions of like nature may issue forth to any person or persons whatsoever to be executed as aforesaid lest by colour of them any of yor Maiesties Subiects be destroyed or put to death contrary to the Lawes and Franchise of the Land.

All which they most humbly pray of yor most excellent Maiestie as their rights and liberties according to the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme. And that yor Maiestie would also vouchsafe to declare that the Awards doings and proceedings to the prejudice of your people in any of the premisses shall not be drawne hereafter into consequence or example. And that your Maiestie would be also graciously pleased for the further comfort and safety of yor people to declare yor Royall will and pleasure that in the things aforesaid all yor Officers and Ministers shall serve you according to the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme as they tender the honor of yor Maiestie and the prosperity of this Kingdome