A REVIEW OF THE CASE OF THE PROTESTANT DISSENTERS; WITH REFERENCE TO THE CORPORATION AND TEST ACTS; PP. 1-60

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A review of the case of the Protestant dissenters; with reference to the corporation and test acts; pp. 1-60 by Samuel Horsley

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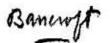
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SAMUEL HORSLEY

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Trieste



REVIEW OF THE CASE

OFTHE

PROTESTANT DISSENTERS;

WITH REFERENCE TO THE

CORPORATION AND TEST ACTS,

In which the Reafons alleged by the Non-conformifts for the Repeal of those Laws, are examined under the three General Heads, to which they are reducible, of

GROUNDS OF CLAIM, RELIGIOUS MOTIVES,

AND

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS,

AND SHEWN TO FAIL IN EACH BRANCH.

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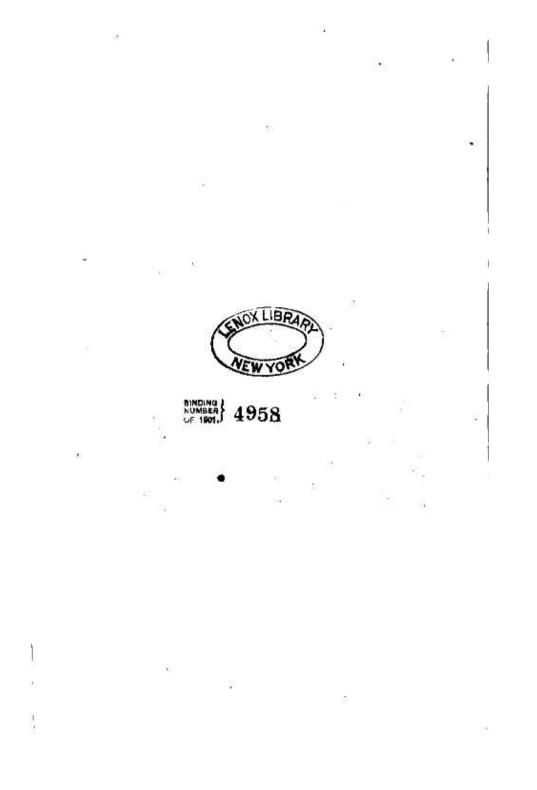
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Αμουω έπορ ίερου και ύπορ όσιων και μουος και μίλα πολλαν, και ίερα τα παίρια τιμησω.

LONDON:

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M,BCC,XC.



ADVERTISEMENT.

 \mathbf{T}_{HE} following pamphlet was written in the year 1787, upon the first circulation of the Cafe of the Protestant Diffenters ; but not being carried through the prefs, in time to be given to the Public before the debate took place in the Houfe of Commons upon Mr. Beaufoy's motion, it was at that time suppressed; the author having no ambition to be the Falftaff who fhould kill the breathlefs Percy, and little thinking, that the Diffenters were in earneft in the declaration, which they made upon that first defeat, of their intention to renew their rejected petition from year to year. The firmnefs with which they now feem determined to abide by that refolution, is thought to render the publication ftill feafonable. As the real cafe of the Diffenters is not altered (howeves the words of it may have been varied yearly) the tract is published as it was originally written, without the least alteration, and with particular reference to the printed Cafe of the year 1787, which for the benefit of readers who may not have preferved the original paper, is prefixed.

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The author conceives, that his argument is confiderably ftrengthened by the new marks, which the Diffenters give, of their love of peace and quiet, by appearing for the third time, before the fame parliament, with a petition twice debated, and twice difapproved : They truft, as is - evident, for fuccefs, not to the merits of their caufe-but to the near approach of a general election ; to the efficacy, at that particular feafon, of the loud threats of the exertions, which they, " the most quiet and peaceable fubjects in the " realm-orderly themfelves, and promoters of " good order wherever they refide"-will make for the fervice of their own party; and they truft, perhaps, ftill more to the ill-founded apprehenfion, which they think poffeffes the minds of those who are likely to be candidates for popular favour, of a criminal fupinenels and inactivity in the clergy, and other members of the eftablished church, in the support of their own friends, in opposition to the vigorous and united efforts of their adversaries.

PRE-

PREFACE.

MIDST the perpetual Aruggles of the Church of England with her numerous enemies, those warious fells, which, with little good liking to each other, have been always bowever firmly confederated for bar destruction ; the defence of the Corporation AET and the Teft AEt hath from time to time found employment for the pens of her ableft advocates; among whom the may jufly reckon SHERLOCK, GIBSON, ELLIS, SWIFT, WARBURTON. Of these, the first and the last may be confidered as the elementary writers upon the fubjett. Bifbop Warburton in his Alliance between Church and State, bath fberon the general good policy of an Establishment, and the nereflity of A TEST for its fecurity, upon principles sphich republicans themselves cannot eafily deny. Bishop Sherlack in his Vindication of the Corporation and Teft Act, at this time very feasonably republished, bath. sherven the particular necessity of a Test to this country, and the particular propriety of the Sacramental Tefl. Bifhop Warburton's work is one of the fineft specimens, that are to be found perhaps in any language, of fcientific seasoning applied to a political subject; and Bishop Sherlock's pampblet, for force and perfpicuity of argument, and for precision and elegance of flile, may rank among the first of controversial writings. The following Tract is of another kind. It pretends to no merit, but that of applying

applying immediately to the prefent occasion. It is fimply, what the title announces, " A Review of the Cafe of the Protestant Diffenters." The general argument is but flightly touched ; fo far only, as feemed neceffary for the confutation of their plea, and the correction of their miftakes. Their political merits are canvaffed with the greatest freedom. To fet them forth in their real colours, neither heightened nor extenuated, it hath been found neceffary to refer to particular paffages in the lateft writings of their most distinguished teachers; and to draw inferences concerning the fpirit of the party, which its friends may perhaps diflike, but at which they cannot jufly take offence. If it is maintained, that Diffenters are, as fuch, difqualified for certain fituations; it is not that they are effectmed dangerous, as bad men, but, as very good men, for fuch many of them unquestionably are, ledde away by unhappy prejudices. If they are taxed with principles, which in certain fituations and in certain times, would render them not the best subjects of the - Britifb Government ; it is not, that they would be worfe than bonefl men muft be, with those principles. But after all, offence will be taken, nor will it eafily be re-For unfortunately fuch principles are proved moved. upon the party, and the tendency of the principles is felfevident : it would need no proof, even if none were extant in the British annals. It will fill be the author's confolation, under whatever refentment be may have drawn upon himfelf, that he bath acted in pure obedience to that maxim of antient wildom which his title page bolds

ii.

PREFACE.

bolds forth, meaning to ferve the interefts of religion, and to fatisfy one of the first duties of a Citizen. He thinks it only neceffary to declare, that under the general name of Diffenters, he includes not the Members of the Church of Scotland, or of any foreign establishment, who, refiding here, may choose to adhere to their own forms. For our indigenous Diffenters, to whom alone the appellation properly belongs, he heartily prays; that the iffue of the prefent contention may be, to open their eyes to the differnment of this truth: That Toleration on the part of Government, and a chearful fubmiss, are the only terms, upon which Churchmen and Diffenters can ever walk together as friends.

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