

**FLAGELLUM PARLIAMENTARIUM:
BEING SARCASTIC NOTICES OF NEARLY
TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE FIRST
PARLIAMENT AFTER THE RESTORATION.
A. D. 1661, TO A. D. 1678**

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Flagellum Parliamentarium: Being Sarcastic Notices of Nearly Two Hundred Members of the First parliament after the Restoration. A. D. 1661, to A. D. 1678 by Andrew Marvell

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ANDREW MARVELL

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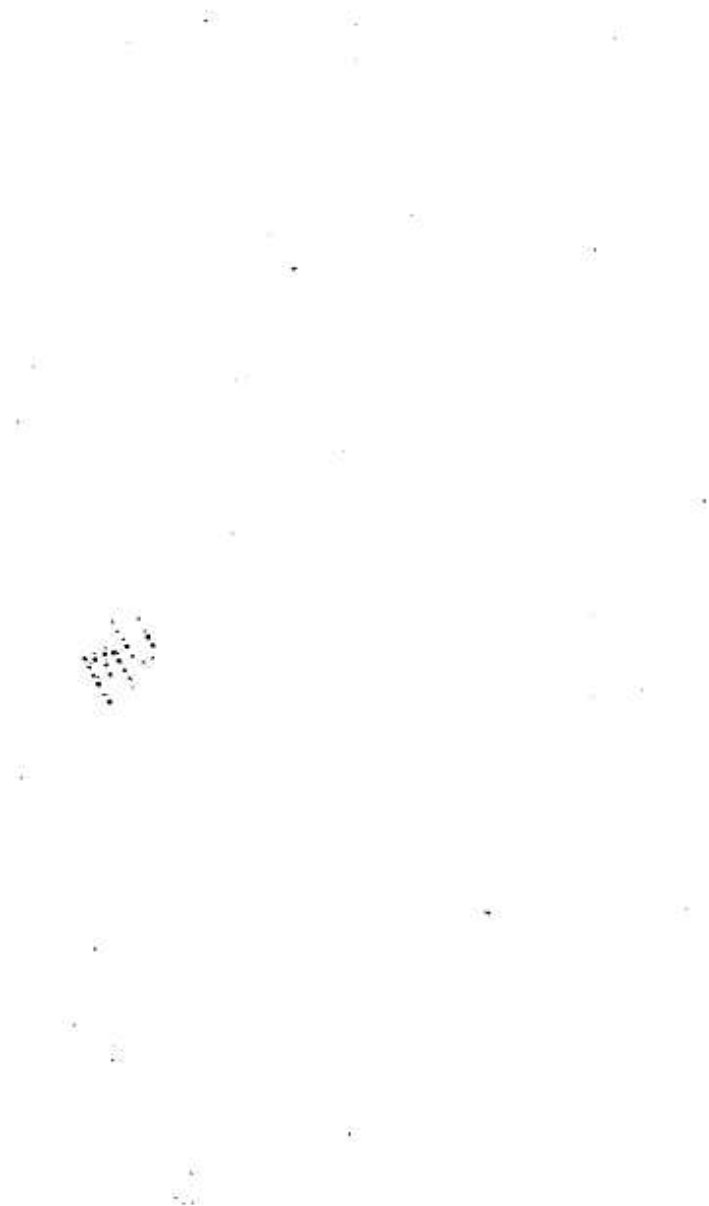
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PREFACE.

THE following pages present a singular specimen of that party virulence for which the reign of Charles the Second was so distinguished; but, after making a proper allowance for political prejudices in the writer, the descriptions which they give of some of the leading persons of the times are no less curious than valuable.

In this tract, one hundred and seventy-eight Members of the Parliament, summoned immediately after the Restoration, and which existed from 1661 to 1678, are named; accompanied by observations, illustrative of their respective characters, or explanatory of the motives which induced them to become the mere instruments of the Crown in the

exercise of their senatorial duties. These notices bear undoubted evidence of the sagacity and extensive information of their author, and are remarkable for their laconic, but cutting severity. To what degree they may be deemed worthy of credit, it is impossible to decide, for the imputed crimes are of that secret and personal nature, as to render it unlikely that proof of their having occurred can now be adduced; whilst many of the parties, however mischievous in their day, were far too insignificant to have received the attention of historians. The manners of the period, however, afford strong grounds for believing in the total absence of moral worth with which so many of these individuals are charged; and it must be confessed that the idea generally entertained of the most eminent among them is strictly consistent with what is said of them in these sheets. Another material circumstance in support of the veracity of the statements, is the correctness of the account of

the situations held by the different persons mentioned, while it is certain that the whole of them sat in Parliament between the years 1661 and 1672. Still, however, it is not in the slightest degree contended that all which is stated, is to be implicitly relied upon. Much must undoubtedly be allowed for the *animus* with which the portraits were sketched; but, though they were probably caricatures, it is to be remembered that caricatures are often faithful likenesses.

It would be as difficult to discover by whom, as upon what occasion, this bitter article was drawn up; but, from the remark respecting Sir Charles Sedley, that he had "promised the King to be absent,"* it seems that it was the list of such members as would support the Court against a motion about to be brought forward inimical to its wishes. Instead of futile speculations, these points are left to the discernment of the reader, who will be much assisted in his in-

* P. 28.