

A true Copy of the dying Words of Mr. Stephen Colledge, left in Writing under his own hand, and confirmed by him at the time of Execution, August 31, 1681, at Oxford.

Published by his own Relations.

MY Innocency in all and every part of the Treasons which was so desperately, maliciously, and falsely sworn against me, by those wretched and mercenary Men, *Dugdale, Turbervil, Smith, and Hains*; for I profess, as in the presence of the Living God, I am so far from being guilty of what they swore against me, that to the best of my knowledge, I never spoke so much as one single word of those Treasons, to them, or either of them in my Life, or ever heard them spoke, till they themselves swore them against me in the Court; and do take it upon my Death, I never was engaged in any manner of Plot or Conspiracy whatsoever in my Life, against the Kings Person, Laws, or Government, or know of any that is or was, the Papists only excepted: And had it been true, as it is utterly false, that I were to have seized the King, either at *White-Hall*, or at *Oxon*, (for my Enemies first swore it at *White-Hall*, and afterwards at *Oxon*, when the Bill was found *Ignoramus* at *London*, which I desire may be observed, *Turbervil* being brought in for that purpose,) I do here solemnly declare, I knew not of so much as one single Person on Gods Earth, that was or would have stood by me in that Attempt. And how likely I was to have done it my self, or that I should have trusted such profligated and necessitous wretches as Papists, Priests, and *Irish-men*, no way able to assist me; and those that had discovered the Treasons of their own Party, in which they were engaged (if they have sworn truth,) notwithstanding they were obliged under the severest Oaths of Secrecy, and pains of Damnation, and had broke them, where could be my hopes they would conceal mine, had I trusted them, being a Protestant, and detesting all such Doctrine which obliged men to conceal Treasons, and cut the Throats of Innocents? I say, all this considered, let all men of common sence, or honesty be my Judges. As to what Mr. *Masters* swore, he was unjust to me, in omitting the material part of our discourse concerning the Parliament in *Forty*; for when he curst them and the last Parliament at *Westminster* also, and said they were alike, and charged them in *Forty* with beginning the War, and cutting off the Kings Head, I denied both, and said it was the Papists that begun that War, and the Death of the King was the fatal consequence of it; which Mr. *Charleton* the Draper in *Pauls Church-yard* can testify, the discourse being at the farther end of his Shop, and he present; into which *Masters* seeing me go in, came apace from towards his own Shop, and as I believe on purpose to quarrel with me, for which God forgive him; he also well knows he had often in derision called me Colonel before that in *Guild-Hall*, and I made him some such answer accordingly: Sir *William Jennings* also did me wrong, for he swore false both as to the words and place, for I do not remember I saw him in the Court at all; but in the Coffee-house; my words were, I had lost the first blood for the Parliament, I wish it be the last. I am confident that was my words; but its a wonder he mistook me no more, since he is of *W—— C—— D—— and S—— &c. Club*, at the *Feathers Tavern* by *Fleet-Bridge*; and Mr. *C——* the Coffee-man himself told me, who also kept them company at that place but the *Wednesday* Night before I was taken.

As to the Printed Papers which *Dugdale* produced in the Court, I do declare I never saw them, called the *Raree Show* and *Intercepted Letter*, in his hand before that time, and therefore could not, and did not decypher any of the Pictures to him, its utterly false. I was not the Author of those Verses called the *Raree Show*, neither do I know who was, or the Printer; or ever owned my self the Author of either of them Papers to him in my Life. I am reported to be a Papist, I declare I was bred a Protestant, such have I lived, and such I dye. I never saw or heard,

or was at any of their Devotions or Worship, except once at *St. Jameses*, about 17 or 18 years since, though about that time, and since, before the Plot was discovered, I worked for several of them at their Houses.

It's reported I should be the occasion of perverting the *Lady Rochester*, and brought a Priest to her, one *Tomson*, alias, *Conyers*; I deny it, all I did was at the request of the *Earl of Rochester*, who gave me a Letter to deliver to him, which I did; but knew not the Contents, neither did that Lady report any such thing of me at her Death; It's said I harboured Priests and Jesuits, and they instance in one *Serjeant* who lay at my House in *Carter-Lane*, Nine years since, by the name of *Dr. Smith*, a Dr. of Physick, brought to me by one *Monlesse* an Apothecary in the *Old-Baily*, and one *Mr. Feild* a Woollen Draper within *Ludgate*, and was there as a Dr. of Physick, and I knew for no other.

It's said falsely also, I Married my Wifes own Mother, which is notorious false. There be some other Scandalous and Malicious Reports thrown upon me, as that I should own all that was sworn against me, except *Haines* Evidence, and the like, to all which I have been Examined by *Dr. Marshal*, whom the *Bishop of Oxon* did voluntarily send to me the day after I was Condemned, and that Worthy and Pious *Dr. Hall* who came to me, and from whom I received the Blessed Sacrament on *Sunday* last, to whom I did make the same Confession and acknowledgement as I have here Incered; particularly the which I do again affirm is truth as I shall Answer it to God Almighty, only I did acknowledge as my fault, I did believe I might have been Guilty on some occasions, and in heat of talk, to have uttered some words of Indecency, not becoming my duty, concerning the King or his Council, and if so I do beg their Pardon; I further declare that *Secretary Jenkins*, *Lord Killingsworth*, and *Mr. Seymer*, when they Committed me, Interrogated me to many things, that I should be Privy to against the King, *Mr. Seymer* saying I did know the *Lord Shaftsbury*, *Lord Howard*, *Mr. Fergisen* were engaged also; to all which I answered, were it to save my Life I could not accuse a man of them, or any other Person whatsoever: This day also, *Tuesday* the 23 of *August*, the Messenger who brought me a Message of my Death, told me I might save my Life, would I confess who was the cause of my coming to *Oxon*, and upon what Account. I Answered him, I was glad the Confessing the truth of that would do it, and said, I came voluntarily of my self, I rode my own Horse, spent my own Money, and neither was invited or had dependency upon any Person whatsoever; and had only one Case of Pistols and my Sword, and had the Papists, or their Party, offered to have destroyed the Parliament, as was sworn and feared they would, I was there to have lived and dyed with them. And I thought in this I had served the King also. But when I had said this (although the very truth) I found it was not that he wanted, and so with a Curse he left me. To what I have said, I shall only add, for my time is short and precious, that what I have here declared is the very truth of my Case, which I shall by the help of my God Confirm with my last Breath, and Seal with my dearest Blood. I dye by the hands of the Enemies of the Great God, his Christ, his Servants, his Gospel, and my Country; to which I willingly submit, and earnestly pray mine may be the last Protestants Blood that Murdering Church of *Rome* may shed in Christendom; And that my Death may be a far greater blow to their bloody Cause, than I either have or could have been by my Life. The Lord God Almighty, save *England* from Popery and Slavery, Bless the City of *London*, and Unite all good Protestants in the Nation, from one End of the Land to the other.

Amen. Amen.

About 12 of the Clock at Noon he was Executed, and his Head and Quarters (through his Majesties Grace) delivered to his Relations, and by them brought up to *London*, to be privately interred at their discretion.

L O N D O N, Printed for *Edith Colledge*, 1681.