

Sovereign, who had refused to admit of *Cromwell's* Inter-regnum
own Mediation *. 1655

Other remarkable Incidents were the unsuccessful Attempt of the *English* upon *Hispaniola*, for which Admiral *Penn* and General *Venables* were committed Prisoners to the Tower; though, before their Return home, they made the Conquest of the Island of *Jamaica* from the *Spaniards*, which has ever since continued (and long may it continue) a Fief to the Crown of *Great-Britain* *.

Soon after Admiral *Blake* bombarded *Tunis* in the *Mediterranean*, and compell'd the Dey to submit to a Treaty for releasing the *English* Captives.

Next followed a Declaration of War with *Spain*, and a Treaty of Peace with *France*, which was, perhaps, the greatest Oversight in Politics *Cromwell* was ever guilty of, with respect to the Tranquility of *Europe*; since it proved one principal Means of advancing the Power of *France* to that Greatness it has since arriv'd at.

But leaving these Foreign Affairs, the bare Mention whereof is sufficient for our Purpose, since they are so amply discussed by the General Historians; we shall look into a Matter of a domestic Nature, that happened the latter End of this Year, which has been wholly passed over by some Writers, and grossly misrepresented by others, though it gave the greatest Alarm to the whole Nation. This was a Treaty between *Cromwell* and the *Jews*, who applied for Leave to settle in his Dominions.—We shall first give the Account of this Affair, as published by Authority; and then add such further Particulars as our *Collections* afford us upon the Subject.

The

* The whole Narrative of this Affair was published by *Cromwell's* Order, under the following Title, *A Collection of the several Papers sent to his Highness the Lord-Protector, concerning the bloody and barbarous Massacres, Murders, and other Cruelties, committed on many Thousands of the Reform'd. or Protestants, dwelling in the Vallies of Piedmont, by the Duke of Savoy's Forces, join'd therein with the French Army, and several Irish Regiments.*

* The Occasion of the Disappointment at *Hispaniola*, and the taking of *Jamaica*, are amply related in two Letters from General *Venables* to General *Montague*, afterwards Earl of *Sandwich*, printed in Mr. *Carte's Collections*, 8vo, Vol. II. p. 46. et seq.

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The Narrative, published by Order of *Cromwell* and his Council, was in *hæc Verba* : *

Whitehall, December 4.

‘ Divers eminent Ministers of the Nation, having been called hither by Letter from the Lord-Protector, were present with his Highness and the Council in the Council-Chamber ; when the following Proposals, made by certain *Jews*, of whom Rabbi *Mannassah Ben Israel*, of *Amsterdam*, was the Chief, were read to them.

The *Jews* apply
to the Lord-Pro-
tector for Leave
to settle in his
Dominions ;

‘ THESE are the Graces and Favours which, in the Name of my *Hebrew Nation*, I *Mannassah Ben Israel* do request of your Most Serene Highness, whom God make prosperous, and give happy Success to, in all your Enterprizes, as your humble Servant doth wish and desire.

1. ‘ The first Thing I desire of your Highness is, That our *Hebrew Nation* may be received and admitted into this puissant Commonwealth, under the Protection and Safeguard of your Highness, even as the Natives themselves. And, for greater Security in Time to come, I do supplicate your Highness to cause an Oath to be given (if you shall think it fit) to all the Heads and Generals of Arms to defend us upon all Occasions.

2. ‘ That it will please your Highness to allow us public Synagogues, not only in *England*, but also in all other Places under the Power of your Highness ; and to observe in all Things our Religion, as we ought.

3. ‘ That we may have a Place, or Cœmitery, out of the Town to bury our Dead, without being troubled by any.

4 ‘ That we may be permitted to traffic freely in all Sorts of Merchandize, as others.

5. ‘ That (to the End those who shall come may be for the Utility of the People of this Nation, and may live without bringing Prejudice to any, and

* Printed by *Henry Hills*, Printer to his Highness the Lord-Protector.

‘ and not give Offence) your Most Serene Highness
 ‘ will make Choice of a Person of Quality, to inform
 ‘ himself of and receive the Passports of those who
 ‘ shall come in; who, upon their Arrival, shall certify
 ‘ him thereof, and oblige themselves, by Oath, to
 ‘ maintain Fealty to your Highness in this Land.

6. ‘ And (to the Intent they may not be trou-
 ‘ blefome to the Judges of the Land, touching the
 ‘ Contests and Differences that may arise betwixt
 ‘ those of our Nation) that your Most Serene High-
 ‘ ness will give Licence to the Head of the Syna-
 ‘ gogue, to take with him two Almoners of his
 ‘ Nation to accord and determine all the Differen-
 ‘ ces and Procefs, conformable to the *Mosaic* Law;
 ‘ with Liberty, nevertheless, to appeal from their
 ‘ Sentence to the Civil Judges; the Sum wherein
 ‘ the Parties shall be condemned being first de-
 ‘ posited.

7. ‘ That in Case there have been any Laws
 ‘ against our *Jewish* Nation, they may, in the first
 ‘ Place, and before all Things, be revoked; to the End
 ‘ that, by this Means, we may remain with the great-
 ‘ er Security under the Safeguard and Protection of
 ‘ your Most Serene Highness.

‘ Which Things your Most Serene Highness
 ‘ granting to us, we shall always remain most af-
 ‘ fectionately obliged to pray to God for the Pro-
 ‘ sperity of your Highness, and of your illustrious and
 ‘ and sage Council, that it will please him to give
 ‘ happy Success to all the Undertakings of your
 ‘ Most Serene Highness. *Amen.*

‘ The Ministers having heard these Proposals
 read, desired Time to consider of them, and the
 next Day was spent in Prayer and Fasting.

‘ *Dec. 7.* This Day, in the Afternoon, a Con-
 ference was held with the Ministers about these Pro-
 posals, in the Presence of his Highness the Lord-
 Protector, the Lord-President *Laurence*, Lord *Lam-*
bert, Lord *Fiennes*, and divers more of the Council,
 with the Lord Chief Justice *Glynn*, and the Lord
 Chief Baron *Steel*. Of the Ministers there were Dr.

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Thomas Goodwin, Dr. Wilkinson, Dr. Tuckney, Mr. Manton, Mr. Nye, Mr. Bridge, and many others; but nothing being concluded on, another Conference was appointed to be held on the next *Wednesday*. Accordingly,

'*Dec. 12.* The Conference was renewed in a Withdrawing-Room in the Presence of the Lord-Protector, where a Committee of the Council were met by the greatest Part of the Ministers and other Persons, approved by his Highness to take the said Proposals into Consideration; but nothing then resolved upon.

'*Dec. 14.* There was another Conference on the same Subject. And,

'*Dec. 18.* The Committee broke up without coming to any Resolution, or even a further Adjournment.'

The Narrative concludes with this Remark, 'That his Highness, at these several Meetings, fully heard the Opinions of the Ministers touching the said Proposals; expressing himself thereupon with Indifference and Moderation, as one that desired only to obtain Satisfaction in a Matter of so high and religious a Concernment; there being many glorious Promises recorded in Holy Scripture, concerning the Calling and Conversion of the *Jews* to the Faith of *Christ*: But the Reason why nothing was concluded upon was, because his Highness proceeded

Which Proposal in this, as in all other Affairs, with good Advice proves abortive. and mature Deliberation.'

Thus far by Authority.—

We shall next proceed to inquire how this Proposal was received by the Public: The indefatigable and resolute Mr. *Prynne* published a very zealous Remonstrance against it^a: The Aim of which

^a The Title Page of this elaborate Performance runs thus: *Abhorrent Demurrer to the Jews long discontinued Remitter into England: Comprising an exact Chronological Relation of their first Admission into, their ill Deportment, Misdemeanors, Condition, Sufferings, Oppressions, Slaughters, Plunders by popular Insurrections, and legal Exactions in, and their*

which was to shew, That the permitting the *Jews* to reside in *England*, according to the foregoing Proposals, was highly criminal; as being the greatest Affront offered to the Son of God, the Author of our Redemption, that any Christian Government could be guilty of: That for *Cromwell* to grant the *Jews* the public Exercise of their Religion, when he and his Council had so lately passed an Ordinance prohibiting Thousands of Christian Ministers from preaching the Gospel, for no other Reason than their having formerly adhered to the Royal Party, was, in the highest Degree, both unreasonable and unjust: That the Argument urged for Admission of the *Jews* upon a Hope of their being converted to Christianity by their Residence in *England*, was a meer Pretence to cover another Design, that of bringing a large Sum of Money into the Protector's Coffers: In short, our Author does not scruple to compare this intended Bargain with the execrable Proposal made by *Simon Magus* to the Apostles.

Cromwell's View in the before-mentioned Expedition against *Hispaniola*, seems to have been founded upon the pleasing Prospect of gaining so vast a Plunder from the *Spaniards*, as to be able, for the future, to govern without Parliaments, and his Failure in that Attempt induced him to give Audience to the *Jewish* Deputies, who, as some Contemporaries write ^b, offered him 200,000 *l.* to carry their Proposals into Execution. But the Ministers appointed to attend at the Conference held in the Council Chamber on that Occasion, dissenting from the Protector's Project, and finding himself daily attack'd by Pasquinades from the Press, he thought it prudent to desist from this *Rabbinical* Treaty.

From

total, final Banishment, by Judgment and Edict of Parliament, out of England, never to return again. Collected out of the best Historians. With a brief Collection of such English Laws and Scriptures, as seem strongly to plead and conclude against their Re-admission into England, especially at this Season, and against the general Calling of the Jewish Nation. With an Answer to the chief Allegations for their Introduction.

^b *The perfect Politician*, p. 283, 291. — *Heath's Flagellum*, p. 167.

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