

Public Opinion

Transcript of a page of a letter from James Erskine to his brother, the Earl of Mar, 22 June 1706 (NRS reference GD124/15/413/3)

Transcript:

...there seems to be very many who are neither much for the Union nor against it, but are in a kind of suspense about it & know not what to think. I fancy many of the Ministers are of this sort, some of them seem afraid of it but generally they do not show much anger at it so far as I have heard, the severals of them do. the most part of the trading people talk favourably of it. My L[or]d Buchan the other day was very angry when he heard that all our Peers were not to sit in the United Parliament, and 'tis generally thought here that that will be a great obstacle to it's passing among us. We have a Book on it which is said to be Paterson's, 'tis one account of some pretended Conversations at a Club in Fridday Street. his scheme is commonly thought here to be that you have gone upon. yesterday severalls of the Squadron and the Wise men of Perth came to town. I have not yet been with any of them to know their opinion, except a very litle in the Coffe house this forenoon after the House rose. there is never a word now of Changes at Court, & people seem all to be in suspense till you come down, and when that will be & whether the Union be yet concluded are the questions I am continually plagu'd with. there was a storry lately that

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The Union of 1707

the Queen had sent for Anandale from the Bath and
told him that she would have him & her servants good
Friends before they went to the Parl[iament] but no body gives
credit to this. Salton told me twice thrice that he was
sorry you had to do with such a business as this Union. I
believe he will be glad of his Instruments. The in-
closed memorial was sent me by Thirtyakers, ane accompt
of his pay is at the end of it.

Ed[inbu]r[gh] June 22 1706

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