

The Claim of Right

Transcript of an extract from the Claim of Right, taken from the Acts of the Scottish Parliament, 1689 (NRS reference PA2/33 p.38)

Therfor the Estates of the Kingdom of Scotland Find
and Declaire that King James the seventh, being a profest
papist, Did assume the royall power, and acted as king without
ever taking the Oath required by Law, and hath by the advyce of
Evill and wicked Counsellors, Invaded the fundamental Constitu-
tion of the Kingdome, and altered it from a Legall Limited mon-
archy, To ane arbitrary Despotick power, and hath Exercised the
same to the subversione of the protestant religion, and the viola-
tion of the Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdome, Inverting all
the Ends of Government, Wherby he hath forefaulted the right to
the Crowne, and the throne is become vacant.

And whereas His Royal Highness Wiliam then Prince
of Orange, now King of England, whom it hath pleased
almighty God to make the Glorious instrument of Delyvering these
Kingdomes from Popery and arbitrary powers, Did By the
advyce of severall Lords and Gentlemen of this nation at London
for the tyme call the Estates of this Kingdome to meet the fourt-
eenth of march Last. In order to finish ane Establishment as that th[eir]
Religion, Lawes and Liberties might not be again in Danger of being
Subverted; And the saids Estates being now assembled, in a full and
free representative of this nation, Takeing to their most serious
Consideratione, the best meanes for attaining the ends aforesaid

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The Union of 1707

Do In the first place as ther ancestors in the like Cases have usual-

ly Done for the vindicating and asserting ther antient rights and

Liberties, Declare That By the Law of this Kingdome

no papist can be King or Queen of this realme nor bear any office...

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