

Document: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5M.P's but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642.

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Gentlemen: I am sorry for this occasion ~~to~~ ^(coming)
unto you; yesterday I sent a serg^t wth arms & upon
a very important occasion, to apprehend some that
by my commaund, were accused of high Treason, where-
unto I did expect obedience and not a message.
And I must declare unto you here, ^{that altho} no King that ever was
in England, shall be more Carefull of yo^r priviledges, ~~to~~
maintaine them to the uttermost of his power than I shall ~~be~~.
yet you must know y^t in Cases of Treason no person hath a
priviledge; And therefore I am come to know, if any of
those persons that were accused are here.
Then ~~fasting his eyes upon all the Members in the House, said,~~
~~I doe not see any of them; if thinke I should know them~~
^{for} I must tell you gent: that so long as these persons, that I haue
accused (for noe slight crime, but for Treason), are here, I
cannot expect that this House, can be in the right way, that
I doe heartily wish it: Therefore I am come to tell you,
that I must have them, where so ever I finde them;
then his ma^{ties} said is Mr Pym. here to w^{ch} noe body gave
Answer ~~well~~, since I see All ~~the~~ ^{the} Birds are flowne I
doe expect from you, that you shall send them unto mee, as
soone as they returne hither: ~~I must tell you in the word of a~~
King: I never did intend any force, but shall proceed ag^t them
in a legall & faire way: for I never ~~intended~~ ^{meant} any other.
And now since I see I cannot doe what I came for. I thinke
this noe unfit occasion. to repeat what I haue said formerl^y.
that what so ever I haue done in fauour, ~~was~~ ^{is} to the good of
my subjects I doe meane to maintaine it.
I will trouble you noe more. But tell you I doe expect as
soone as they come to the house, you will send them to mee
otherwise I must take my owne course to finde them.

Transcript: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5 MPs, but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642

N.B. Any words printed in italics, were crossed through in the original document

Gentlemen: I am sorry for this occasion of coming into you; yesterday I sent a sergeant at armes uppon a very important occasion, to apprehend some that by my Command, were accused of high treason, where unto I did expect obedience and not a message.

And I must declare unto you here, that albeit noe King that ever was in England, shall bee more Carefull of your previledges, to mentaine them to the uttermost of his power then I shall doe, yet you must know yet in Cases of Treason noe person hath a previledge, And therefore I am come to know, if any of those persons that were accused are here.

Then casting his Eyes uppon all the members in the House, said for I doe not see any of them I thinke I should know them

I must tell you Gent. That soe long as these persons, that I have Accused (for noe slight crime, but for Treason), are here, I Cannot expect that this House, can bee in the right way, that I doe heartily wish it: Therefore I am come to tell you that I must have them, wheresoever I finde them

Then his Majtie said is Mr Pyme here to wh noe Body gave answers well Since I see All the Birds are flown I doe expect from you that, you shall send them unto mee, as soone as they returne hither but I assure *must tell* you in the word of a King: I never did intend any force, but shall proceed against (agt) them in a legall and faire way: for I never meant *intended* any other:

And now since I see I Cannot doe what I Came for. I thinke this noe unfit occasion to Repeat what I have said formerly that what soever I have done in favour and to the good of my subjects I doe meane to mentaine it.

I will trouble you noe more But tell you I doe expect as soone as they come to the House, you will send them to mee otherwise I must take my owne Course to finde them.

Simplified transcript: SP 16/488/25

Charles' I speech to parliament demanding the 5 MPs, but they have withdrawn, 4th January 1642

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[Extra explanations are in square brackets]

Gentlemen, I am sorry that I have had to come to you at the House of Commons. Yesterday I sent a Sergeant at Arms [a man responsible for keeping law and order in the House] to arrest some MPs who were accused of high treason [a crime against the King or country]. I expected them to be brought to me. I did not expect to receive a message.

As King, I know about your rights [Charles I is talking about the MPs' parliamentary privileges, as the King should not have come to the House of Commons to arrest the MPs]. But in cases of treason, nobody has any privileges. I have come to see if any of the people accused of this crime are here.

The King looked around at the members in the House, and said; I do not see any of those people accused of high treason here.

I must tell you Gentlemen that this House will not be in order until I have these people. I will take them wherever I find them.

Then his Majesty said; is Mr Pym here? Nobody answered.

I can see that all the birds have flown [Charles I is talking about the accused MPs not being present in the House of Commons]. I expect you to send them to me as soon as they return. In the word of a King, I assure you that I do not intend any force. I will try them in a legal and fair way.

I will repeat what I said, that whatever I have done for the good of my subjects, I do mean to maintain it.

I will trouble you no more. I expect you to send these people to me as soon as they return to the House. Otherwise I will take my own actions to find them.