

Lib. H. D. The humble Address of the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lords Spirituall
p. 13 and Temporall and Commons in Parliam^t Assembled.

Die Veneris 13th Decembris. 1695.

The Lords
& Commons
address to
his Maty abt
the Scotch
Act.

We the Lords Spirituall and Temporal, and Commons in Parliam^t Assembled having taken into our Consideration the State of the Trade of this Kingdom Do find, that besides many other Disadvantages and Difficulties it now lies under An Act of Parliam^t that hath lately Received your Ma^{ty} Royall Assent in yo^r Kingdom of Scotland for Erecting a Company Trading to Affrica, and the Indies is likely to bring many Great Prejudices and Mischeifs to all yo^r Majesties Subjects, that are Concern'd in the wealth or Trade of this Nation; and therefore in all Duty to Your Ma^{ty} and the Care We ought to have of this Kingdom, We doe humbly Represent to Yo^r Ma^{ty} that the s^d Act does provide, that all Ships, Vessells, Merchandize, Goods, and other Effects whatsoever, belonging to that Company, Shall be ffree from all manner of Restraints, or Prohibitions, and of all Customs, Taxes, Sesses, Supplyes, or other Duties Imposed, or to be Imposed by Act of Parliam^t or otherwise, for the Space of one and Twenty Years: And farther, That the s^d Company, whole Members, Officers, Servants, or others belonging thereto shall be ffree both in their persons, Estates, and Goods, Employed in the s^d Stock and Trade, from all manner of taxes, Sesses, Supplies, Excises, Quartering of Soldiers Transient or Local, or Levying of Soldiers, or other Impositions whatsoever, during the Space of one & Twenty years. By Reason of which great Advantages Granted to the Scotch East India Company, and the Duties and Difficulties that lye upon that Trade in England, a great part of the Stock and Shipping of this Nation will be Carryed thither; and by this means Scotland be made a ffree Port for all East India Commodities; and Consequently those Severall places in Europe, which were Supplied from England, will be ffurnished from thence, much Cheaper than Can be Done by the English; and therefore this Nation will loose the Bennifit of Supplying fforreign Parts with those Commodities; which hath alwaies been a Great Article in the Ballance of our fforreign Trade, Moreover the s^d Commodities will unavoidably be brought by the Scotch into Engl. by Stealth, both by Sea and Land, to the Vast Prejudice of the English Trade and Navigation, and to the Great Detrim^t of your Ma^{ty} in Your Customs, And when once that Nation Shall have Settled themselves in Plantations in America, our Commerce in Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton, Wool, Skinns, Masts &^{ca} will be Utterly Lost