



**SCOTLAND'S**  
**Great Advantages**

BY A N

**UNION with ENGLAND:**

Shown in a

**LETTER**

From the

**COUNTRY,**

To a Member of

**PARLIAMENT.**

*William Pitt, Esq.*

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S. I R,

I am glad you got safe to *Edinburgh*, and that you tell me the Parliament is now met: And though you know my Business is not, nor do I much meddle in the Affairs of State, yet since you honour me so far, as to value and ask my Opinion concerning the intended Union of the Two Kingdoms, I shall not altogether Decline Obedience to your Commands, nor interrupt your better thoughts, by any prolix Argumentation, but plainly and impartially tell you, that I wish nothing more than the Prosperity and Welfare of my Country, and know no better means to Procure the same, than by Uniting on such Honourable and Advantageous terms, as are said to have been Agreed to in the late Treaty; which you say was Read in Parliament, and Ordered to be Published for the Satisfaction of the whole Nation, who ought in gratitude to honour the Persons and Memory of those, who so Industriously and Indefatigably bestir'd themselves to procure them. And this I say, without any Byass or Obligation to any Party: For you know, I have not the honour to share in the Publick Management, nor ever Enjoyed any other Benefit from the Government, but what is common to all my Fellow Subjects.

I need not tell you the Unhappiness of both Nations for many Ages, of Feuds, Rapins, Open-Wars and Devastations, and the many Unsuccessful Attempts made towards a Happy Union, till so Great and Good a Design should be Perfected, and Accomplished in the Days of a Queen, who is as Formidable to Her Enemies, by Her Victorious Arms, as She's Lov'd of Her Subjects, for the benign Influences of Her Government. Now, instead of these Calamities, let us Consider what our Hopes and Expectations may be from the Union of the Two

Nations in one Body, under one Head, and Join'd in the same common Interest.

And First, as to Religion. One great Happiness of our *Island* is, that we very early, received the Principles of Christianity, which are now Taught and Established amongst us, Reform'd from the Novelties and Superstitions of the Church of *Rome*. And though our Fatal Divisions about the less Essential Parts of Religion, have done no small prejudice, to the Peace and Quiet of the Church and Sate of both Nations ; Yet, by God's blessing, it hath been preserved against all the secret machinations and open designs of its Enemies : and, by a firm Union of the Two Nations, may continue to be the Bulwark of the Protestant Religion and Interest.

I intend not to Examine the different Views and Encouragement, Parties and Factions may have from it, but in the general it is evident, that we are hereby Secured against the common Enemy ; and if we cannot Hope to be United in Form of Worship, yet we may see more of the Spirit of Moderation, and not grudge the Indulgeing our Dissenting Brethren, in the way and manner of Serving God, that is not contrarie to His Word, and most agreeable to the Dictats of their own Consciences, Whereas without this, and by a constant Strugling and Contention of Parties, the common Enemy may catch his opportunity of Ruining both. You know me too well to think me Inslav'd into the opinion of Men, which is not founded on infallible Truth and Right Reason ; and that my Principles are not so narrow and confin'd, as to exclude such who are not of the same opinion with my self about Church-Government and form of Worship, from the Title and Hopes of a good Christian ; Yet I shall never wish to see Idolatry and Superstition prevail, which must be the necessary Attendants of a Popish Successor : And whoever opposes the good Intentions of a Union, either Maliciously or Ignorantly Promots these two Mischiefs to his Country, with many others that I shall not Name.

And as an Union Secures our Religion, so it Procures the Safety, Prosperity and Peace of *Britain*. It could be easily Prov'd from History, that all the Advantages gain'd over this *Island* by Foreign Enemies and Invasions, were owing to the divisions separat Interests found therein; which by an Union are remov'd, and the *Island* able to Defend it self against any Attack from Abroad, and in a condition to give Laws to their Neighbours: Which some of them well-foreseeing, are not a little jealous of it, which should encourage us the more cordially to joyn in it, especially since it's profer'd with so many advantages, as could have scarce been expected, and never before Procur'd.

That the advantages of it will equally redound to both Nations, is evident from this, that hereby are communicated and made common the proper benefits, and Product of both Kingdoms, and by such an Intercours every body will be active in some business whereby he may better his own Fortune, and provide for his Family. Our *Isle* produces all things for the conveniency of Human Life, and our Seas are Stored with variety of excellent Fishes, which offer themselves at certain Seasons to our hands, and yet are neglected, though the Catching them might Employ and Inrich many Thousands who live very Idle and Miserable. Our Earth covers Treasurs of rich Minerals, which either our little Art or less Activity, cannot dig up and discover to the Publick Advantage. Nay, the very things, about which our People are most commonly Employed, cannot be Exported to any tollerable Profit. Whereas by a Union I foresee a Spirit of Trade and Industry, to prompt every Body to undertake something of this kind, when they can expect to Reap the Benefit of their Labours.

But then by a Union, we are secured of Peace; one of the greatest of Blessings. None that know any thing of our History, can be ignorant, how fatal the ancient Wars between the two Nations were to both, and what Devastations and Depredations were daily committed. And can any thing

more effectually prevent those Mischiefs for the future, than as a Union? When of one we shall be two People, have the same common Cause and Interest to pursue: No longer influenc'd by foreign States, to the Destruction of one another, but be able to stand our Ground against their Insults; and our Island be one of those fortunate ones which no Enemy dares penetrate. Every body will allow that *Britain* produces as good Men, for Arts and Arms, as *Europe* can afford; and have distinguish'd themselves so Honourably in all the late Actions abroad, that 'tis to be hop'd the very name of our United Island may strick an awe and dread on the proudest of our Nighbours.

I do not say that by an Union all degrees of Discord and Dissention will be prevented: For as in the humane so in the politick Body, Some unnatural Ferments and Convulsions may arise, which by the direction of a skilful Physician may be Corrected: But the Danger is greater, when a cruel Enemy attacks with Sword in hand, and threatens without Mercy, to stab it to the Heart. In a Family there may happen quarrels and divisions among the Domesticks, which yet hazard not the House so much, as when it is assaulted by Ruffians and Robbers, ready to cut the Throats of both Master and Servants. And therefore when our Island becomes one Body or one common Family, every Part and Member of it will contribute to the Good and Safety of the whole.

In a word, *Sir*, a Union has been ever thought so much for the Peace and Safety of *Britain*, and so often attempted, that it's to contradict common Sense, and the voice of Mankind to deny it. And therefore I apprehend the Mistakes that are about it, proceed from some other Cause, and shall charitably suppose the Opposers of it to have no other worse Design and View, than that they conceive it not entirely for the advantage of *Scotland*.

But if they will allow themselves to Reason calmly, and without Prejudice, they will find that if the whole Island Gain by it, then *Scotland* must have its share of the Advantage, and be in a quite other condition of Thriving than it is at present. No doubt *England* expects Benefit by it, and we have no reason to grudge it, if *Scotland* get more than the equivalent. *England* secures an old and dangerous Enemy to be their Friend, and thereby peace at Home, and in more safety to carry on Designs abroad. *Scotland* will not be alarm'd by the Threatnings of a powerful and rich Neighbour, nor so easily put under the yoke of a foreign Enemy. *England* gains a considerable addition of brave and courageous Men, to their Fleet, Armies and Plantations: and we secured by their Protection, and enriched by their Labours. We send our Commodities and useful Manufactures to them, and have Money or other Necessaries remitted to us. They have free access to all our Seas and Ports, are capable of all Privileges of Burgers or Citizens: and we the same among them, can plant Colonies at a cheaper Rate, and with more Assurance than formerly; will see our Artificers improve, and our Land better Cultivated and Manur'd.

But though we could not reckon thir Advantages by it, and many others which I omit, this one consideration may be of some moment, that by it we may, and by all probability, will be in a better, but can be in no worse Condition than we have been for many Years past, and without it, may be still worse. It's a general complaint, that since our King's lived in *England*, our States-Men have been obliged to go there for the Affairs of the Nation, and many drawn after them by hopes of Preferment, and others by Idleness and a vain Curiosity, whereby this Kingdom has been sensibly drain'd of Money, and our Affairs brought under the influence of others, Who had no right to determine in them. All this must be acknowledged to have been, and will continue to

to be, as long as we are two Bodies under one Head, or two Kingdoms with different Interests, and so vastly disproportionable in Strength and Riches. For, can it be reasonably suppos'd or expected, but that, after all the *Limitations* and Precautions the wisest Parliament can make, the weakest of two Kingdoms, under one Governour, will be neglected, when their Interests run cross?

This has been our Case for many Years, and now we have a fair opportunity of remedying all those Grievances, and preventing the hazard and mischiefs of a Civil War, which may end in our utter Ruin and eternal Slavery, by an honourable and advantageous Union, which perhaps can never be procur'd hereafter, tho' never so much wisht for; when the occasion is lost. And to tell you my Thoughts ingenuously, as our Circumstances now are with *England*, and as we stand with our Neighbours Abroad, I think the matter may be reduced to this Alternative, either Union with Peace and Plenty; or Dis-Union with Slavery and Poverty.

When I consider these things more at length (which I only hint at here) I wonder there should be any found, to oppose or ~~mar~~ so good a Design. And yet in the little conversation I have, I can discover three sorts of Men guilty of this, for very different Reasons and Accounts.

Some through mistake and ill Intelligence, fear their beloved Model and Form of Church Government, may be thereby undermined and pull'd down: And this very industriously insinuated to them by no hearty Well-wishers to their Cause and Interest. For they will at last be satisfied that care enough has been taken to secure that precious Jewel. But suppose it were not, to those who are not fully persuaded of its divine Institution, nor regard it as a constituent part of the Christian and Reform'd Religion; it would be no sufficient



cient reason to oppose the common Good and Advantage of the Island therefore. But since both Episcopals and Presbyterians may be encouraged with the hopes of so much good from it, I think there should be no dispute on this Head.

Others, besides Roman Catholicks, who have no other design but to raise their Fortunes on the ruins of the Government, and of all that's Sacred and Civil amongst us; cry out no Union, nor will hear of the same Successor with *England*, having their Eyes on another, whom though they Name not, yet 'tis easy to guess whom they mean; but not so easy to fathom their Reasons and Inducements. If they be true Hearted *Scotsmen*, they will not strive to advance the Interest of any Prince, to the disadvantage of their Country. And to promote any to the Throne of *Britain*, is plainly to leave *Scotland* in the same lurch and circumstances, wherein we have complain'd it to have been those many Years by past. *Melius exilium est tibi, quam reditus iste: crimine alieno cadas, tuo redibis.* Seneca in *Theb.*

A third sort of Men, tho no declar'd Enemies to an Union, but seem to wish it, yet must be still quarrelling at something; and alledge, all things were not carried on, in the late Treaty, to the Honour and Advantage of *Scotland*: For no other reason, I suppose, but because they were not call'd to it, or rather that they envy the Honour of those who were so Instrumental in procuring so good Terms. To whom I may apply that of the Poet,

*Dum malus obtrechat facta immortalia liwor,  
Nec finit adjutas ductaris crescere laudes*

And indeed I'm the more persuaded of this, when I consider the weakness of their Objections and Prejudices against it. Why, say they, to give up and yeild our Sovereignty: No

**Wise a Parliament in Scotland: To be Represented by a few Delegates in a British Parliament: No more the Name of the Ancient Kingdom: our Noblemen and Peers to lose their Birth-Right: And a great deal more to this purpose: Which are only specious Pretences and plausible Arguments, to startle such, who, not understanding the Reasons and Causes of Things, are easily imposed on to entertain groundless Jealousies, and be frighted with Words.**

You know, *Sir*, that on all Occasions the private life and capacity I am in, give me, I have appear'd, and still am, as much as any *Scotsman*, for asserting the Honour, Independence and Rights of my Country; and am not insensible of the Attempts made upon them, nor of the hazard wherein they may be hereafter, if we take not right Measures to prevent it: Our Eyes are now open'd, to see the Error of scrupling up the Prerogative so high; to which both the contending Parties amongst us gave their Hands by turns. For, as the Government either favour'd or protected them, they were ready to go into the Measures of it. And though much has been said and done in the late Parliaments, to recover our Rights and Liberties; yet nothing in my opinion, can more effectually secure them to the benefit of the Nation in general, than an honourable Union; as it's now intended; where, in we are to meet our Neighbours but half way, who come with equal Concessions, and scruple not the alteration of Names and Words, when the thing is still the same.

I shall not trouble you with a particular answer to the Objections here hinted at, knowing you to be too wise to perceive any weight or solidity in them. For when they are managed with all the Art and Force their Formers can give them, they are not to be laid in the Ballance, nor will have any proportion to the universal good and benefit of the Nation. Has it not been the general wish of all *Scotsmen*, to be in other Terms and Circumstances with *England* than we have been

been for many Years? And now when we are in a fair way of being so, to oppose it is no small degree of Fickleness and Inconstancy.

I reckon our Sovereignty and Independency to be more asserted in this Union, and by the Treaty about it intended, than we have had the occasion to do of a long time: And if we were to yeild it upon the account of any false or pretended *Superiority* over *Scotland* by *England*, or any other Nation whatsoever; I think no honest *Scotsman*, but would protest against it: Or if any such Conveyance or Submission were intended as was made by *Balliol* to the *English*, and offer'd by *Queen Mary* to the *French* in a secret Article of her Marriage with the then *Dauphin* of *France*, dated the 4th of *April* 1557, as it's to be found at large in *Recueil de Traitez &c.* 1. 2. p. 510.

But here two Nations equally Free and Independent one of another, are willing to become One, under one Sovereign, not regarding old Names by which they were distinguished; but as they are Inhabitants of one Island, so to go under the common Name of it: And though there were never another Parliament to meet at *Edinburgh*, what's the loss, if our Laws and Liberties be preserv'd in one else where? And who knows but the reasons of State and Government, may occasion some Parliaments to sit in this Northern part of our Isle? For, I suppose it will be made no necessary qualification of a *British* Parliament, that it should always meet at *London*. And tho' this part of *Brittain* had fewer Representatives, than are said to be agreed to in the Treaty, yet we are not to fear the worse Treatment for that, no more than the City of *London* does, which sends no more Members, than a Town not so large by the hundred part. For, by an Union, we are no more two but one Body, and who will hurt his own Flesh?

I confess, of all ranks and degrees of Men amongst us, our Noblemen have the most to object, who seem to be debar'd from the Privilege of their Peerage; and yet every Baron may

have the same pretence in a *Scots* Parliament. But it is to be hop'd, their Lordships will not lay their personal Rights and Pretensions in the ballance with the good of the whole Nation. And I see no loss their Families will suffer by their keeping at Home, when the Expences of a Parliament Journey, may be more than many of them can well bear.

You know with what severity and rigidness many of our Tenents are treated by their Lords and Lairds; and would it not be a mighty relief to them to be freed from such Tyranny, and equally beneficial to the Nation to have the Art of improving Land, and many other things introduc'd amongst us, which I hope will be the consequence of a happy Union. What is it that has made so much odds betwixt *Scotland* and *England*, in the Riches of the People, and Product of the Ground, but their Trade and Industry? And what has more hindred our Thriving therein, than the exaction of many Masters upon their Tenents and Servants? Our Land is generally rackt and over-valued in the Rent, and the Leases given for so short a time, that the Tenants are no ways encourag'd to Improve it, either to their own or Masters advantage, nor can hardly gain a tolerable Living by their Toil and Labour: Whereas every body that knows any thing of *England*; sees the contrary there, and may expect to see it among our selves, by such a communication as will attend an Union.

I need say nothing of the encouragement our Merchants and Trading Men have to joyn cordially in it, they of all others having the fairest hopes of being Gainers, not only by an open and free Trade, but in Company and Societies with others, who will infallibly be invited to come and live amongst us, by the convenient situation of our Ports to foreign Places, and the great benefit to be made by the Fishing in our Seas; and what advantage this will be to us, I leave you to judge.

Thus, Sir, I have very briefly and ingenuously given you my thoughts of an Union, without any particular expectation of advantage to my self; which if they seem Just and Reasonable, you can improve in your publick Occasions; and if I err or mistake, I hope you'll shew me wherein: For I know I write to one who is not acted and led by the sole influence of Parties or Factions, but by solid Reason, and the true Interest of our Country, to which I vow my self a heart well-wisher, and am,

S-I-R,

Your most humble Servant,