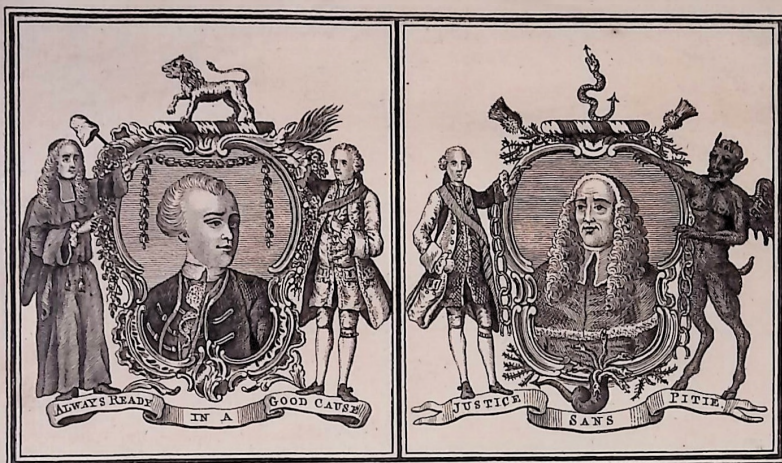


ARMS of LIBERTY and SLAVERY.



Published according to Act of Parliament.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Middlesex.

GENTLEMEN,

AFTER every kind of opposition from the tools of ministerial power, and every hour of delay which could be gained by the chicane of law, I find myself at last happy, even under this day's severe sentence, that by the unanimous determination of all the Judges of the Court of King's Bench I am restored to my birth-right, to the noble liberties and privileges of an Englishman. The *outlawry*, which is now reversed, has appeared clearly to be an act of equal injustice and cruelty, from the very beginning erroneous and illegal. In the whole progress of ministerial vengeance against me for several years, I have shewn to the conviction of all mankind that my enemies have trampled on the laws, and been actuated by the spirit of tyranny and arbitrary power. The *General Warrant*, under which I was first apprehended, has been adjudged illegal. The *seizure of my papers* was condemned judicially. The *outlawry*, so long the topic of virulent abuse, is at last declared to have been contrary to law; and on the ground first taken by my learned counsel, Mr. Serjeant Glyn, is formally reversed. It still remains in this public cause that the justice of the nation should have place against the first and great delinquent, the late Secretary of State, Lord Halifax, not so much for the punishment he has merited, as for the example of terror to any present or future minister, who might otherwise be tempted to invade the sacred liberties of our country. I pledge myself to you that my strongest efforts shall be exerted to carry this through with a spirit and firmness becoming an affair of national consequence, yet without the smallest degree of private rancour or malice, which neither my long and hard imprisonment, nor the past provocation, shall make me harbour against any man.

After this tedious and harsh confinement I hope, Gentlemen, to pass the rest of my life a free-man among you, my free-born countrymen, and give me leave to declare that on every emergency, whenever the rights of the people are attacked, I shall be ready to stand forward and to risk all for what is nearest to my heart, the freedom of England. In this glorious cause we are equally engag'd. We have only one common interest, that of our country, its laws and liberties, and in consequence the preservation of our Sovereign and the Brunswick line. These objects

we will steadily pursue, and freedom shall not perish among us, neither by the treachery and corruption of ministers, nor by the fate of arms, while we remain men and Englishmen.

I observe, Gentlemen, in the speech of the Lords Commissioners at the opening of this Parliament that *no matters of general business* are to come on this Session. Before the winter I beg to be honour'd with your commands for the next Session on any points of importance, which you may judge proper to be submitted to the great council of the nation, either respecting the kingdom in general, or our county in particular. In all our common concerns I entreat for myself your candour and indulgence, of which I feel that I stand in great need. My views however will be approv'd by you, for they shall be public-spirited, and in no instance selfish or partial. I wou'd not for a moment lie under the suspicion of a mean, private, interested plan of conduct, or personal ambition. I am determined to remain entirely independent, uncorrupted, even unbias'd in an improper manner, and never to accept from the crown either place, pension, gratuity, or emolument of any kind. I will live and die in your service, a private gentleman, perfectly free, under no control but the laws, under no influence but yours, and I hope, by your favour and kindness, one of the Representatives in Parliament for the county of Middlesex. On these terms only I expect through life the continuance of your support, as well as the favourable opinion of you, and all other good men, the friends of liberty and of my country.

I am,

With gratitude and esteem,

GENTLEMEN,

Your faithful and obedient humble Servant,

King's-Bench Prison,
Saturday, June 18, 1768.

John Wilkes.

Printed by A. Millar, in Pall-mall.

ARMS OF LIBERTY AND SLAVERY

AFTER HIS IMPRISONMENT BY LORD MANSFIELD, WILKES ISSUED A BROADSIDE FROM KING'S BENCH PRISON ON JUNE 18, 1768.

MANSFIELD IS DEPICTED AT THE TOP RIGHT WITH THE MOTTO "JUSTICE WITHOUT PITY." HE IS SURROUNDED BY A SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT ON THE BOTTOM, A CONVENTIONAL SNAKE AT THE TOP, AND THE DEVIL ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

ON THE LEFT, WILKES APPEARS AND ON THE TOP LEFT IS A LIBERTY CAP, WITH A LION AS COUNTERPOINT TO MANSFIELD'S SNAKE.

19. Wilkes, John: ARMS of LIBERTY and SLAVERY: (Letter) To the Gentlmen, Clergy and Freeholders of the County of Middlesex, from: John Wilkes, King's Bench Prison, Saturday, June 18, 1768, 14 3/4 X 8 15/16. BM 4207.