time, how ſhort ſoever that time had prov'd, we ſuppoſe only that Anarchy, or the mere want of Government had prevail'd, wherein the Weak would have become a Prey to the Strong, the Good and Peaceable to thoſe who delight in Blood and Rapine; wherein Oppreſſion and Violence would have reign'd in all places without reſtraint; and after this it had pleas'd God ſo far to interpoſe his Providence in our favour, as to quiet all theſe Diſtractions, and reſtore us to the ſecure poſſeſſion of our former Rights, how invaluable a Bleſſing ſhould we have accounted this happy Change? How would our Hearts have overflow'd with Joy, and our Tongues with Praiſe? But if we carry our thoughts a little farther to reflect on the Calamities of Domeſtick and Civil Wars, which would unavoidably have been our Portion, had our preſent Eſtabliſhment been delay'd for ever ſo ſhort a ſpace; if to the particular Sufferings of private perſons we add the open Violence of great parties of Men arm'd and enrag'd againſt one another, and ſometimes it may be thinking to do God and their Country Service by the moſt barbarous Cruelties upon their Fellow-Subjects; but moſt commonly proſecuting their