ſeeming to intimate, that they had laid ſuch a privy *Snare*, as that their hoped *Prey* could not eſcape them.

Yet after all their Sanguine Views, a Diſcovery was made, and the *Net* was broken, and they fell into their own *Pit*: So as when their *Feet* had ſo far *run to Evil*, and they had made ſuch *haſt to ſhed blood*; yet at laſt *ver.* 18. *They did but lay wait for their own blood, they did but lurk privily for their own lives.* So were the *Ways of them.*

They had indeed reſolved and depended on a ſure and ſwift Deſtruction of their Adverſaries, *i. e.* their Innocent Neighbours; they were opening a gaping *Gulph* for them, an artificial *Earthquake* to ſurprize and overwhelm them, no Warning, no Eſcape, *Let us ſwallow them up alive as the grave, and whole as they that go down to the pit.*

The Words therefore may well ſeem an Emphatical Deſcription of plotting that general Maſſacre by Gun-powder, the Deliverance from which we this Day commemorate: And I think we cannot better anſwer the Occaſion of Remembrance and Gratitude, than by looking back for one Hour on the Train of that horrid Conſpiracy, and tracing the Foot-ſteps of Providence in the Diſcovery and Diſappointment of it. Matters of Fact are the beſt Leſſons of Inſtruction: At this Time more eſpecially, we want the Knowledge of what is paſt, to diſcern the better what is preſent, and what might of late have happened to us.

I ſhall therefore, in Seaſon, offer ſome Hiſtorical Obſervations of undoubted Authority, as to the Riſe, Progreſs, Diſcovery, and utter Diſappointment of this monſtrous Conſpiracy.

Firſt, The Riſe and Beginning of it, was certainly to defeat the Proteſtant Succeſſion in this Kingdom.

It is well known, that in the beginning of Queen *Elizabeth*, the Popiſh Intereſt was kept up by the Proſpect of a Popiſh Heir and Succeſſor, *Mary* Queen of *Scots*. And the true Reaſon why the firſt Ten Years of Queen *Elizabeth* (*a*) had the Compliance and Conformity of the Papiſts, was, becauſe they ſaw a ſingle Life in the Throne, and

(*a*) From the Firſt Year of Q. *Eliz.* unto the Eleventh, all Papiſts came to our Church and Service without Scruple. I my ſelf have ſeen *Cornwallis*, *Bedingfield*, and others at Church. So that then for the Space of ten Years they made no Conſcience nor Doubt to communicate with us in Prayer. *Sir* Edw. Cokes *Speech in Proceedings*, 4*to. p.* 53.

Proximity