The Claim of Right

Transcript of an extract from the Claim of Right, taken from the Acts of the Scottish Parliament, 1689 (NRS reference PA2/33 p.38)

Therefor the Estates of the Kingdom of Scotland Find

and Declare that King James the seventh, being a profest papist, Did assume the royall power, and acted as king without ever taking the Oath required by Law, and hath by the advyce of Evill and wicked Counsellors, Invaded the fundamental Constitution of the Kingdome, and altered it from a Legall Limited monarchy, To ane arbitrary Despotick power, and hath Exercised the same to the subversione of the protestant religion, and the violation of the Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdome, Inverting all the Ends of Government, Wherby he hath forefaulted the right to the Crowne, and the throne is become vacant.

And whereas His Royal Highness Wiliam then Prince of Orange, now King of Inglend, whom it hath pleased almighty God to make the Glorious instrument of Delyvering these Kingdomes from Popery and arbitrary powers, Did By the advyce of several Lords and Gentlemen of this nation at London for the tyme call the Estates of this Kingdome to meet the fourteenth of march Last. In order to finish ane Establishment as that th[ei]r Religion, Lawes and Liberties might not be again in Danger of being Subverted; And the saids Estates being now assembled, in a full and free representative of this nation, Takeing to their most serious Consideratione, the best meanes for attaining the ends aforesaid

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Do In the first place as ther ancestors in the like Cases have usual-
ly Done for the vindicating and asserting ther antient rights and
Liberties, Declare That By the Law of this Kingdome
no papist can be King or Queen of this realme nor bear any office...