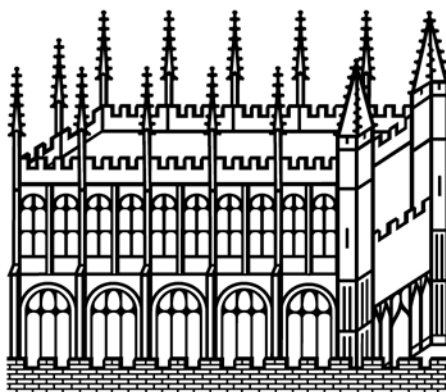




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THE Declaration and Standard

Of the *Levellers of England*;
Delivered in a Speech to his Excellency the Lord Gen. *Fairfax*,
on *Friday* last at *White-Hall*, by Mr. *Everard*, a late Member of the
Army, and his Prophecie in reference thereunto; shewing what will
befall the Nobility and Gentry of this Nation, by their submitting to
Community; With their invitation and promise unto the people, and
their proceedings in *Windsor park*, *Oaklands park*, and severall other
places; also, the Examination and confession of the said Mr. *Everard*
before his Excellency, the manner of his deportment with his Haron,
and his severall Speeches and expressions, when he was commanded
to put it off. Together with a List of the severall Regiments of Horse
and Foot that have cast Lots to go for *Ireland*.



Imprinted at London, for G. Laurensen, April 23. 1649.

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A

DECLARATION

OF THE

Levellers,

Delivered in a Speech to his Excellency the Lord
Generall *Fairfax*, by Mr. *Everard*, a late
member of the Army.



Upon the 19 of this instant *April*, 1649.
the Councell of State received infor-
mation that one Mr. *Everard* formerly
of the Army, who calls himself profit,
with others, came severall dayes last
week to *St. Georges Hill* in *Surrey*, and began to dig,
then to sowing the ground with Parsnips, Carrets, and
Beanes; their number increase every day, they began
with five, and are now about fifty, but they say they will
shortly be above five thousand: They have prepared
seed

Seed Corn, and intend to plow up the ground in *Out-lands park, Windsor park, and other places*, and to levell the pales, &c. inviting all to come in, and promise them meat, and drink, and clothes, declaring to the people, that they will shortly make them come up to the Hills and work; and threaten the people, that if they let their Cattell come in amongst them, they will cut off their usurping heads, and the four-footed legs. For,

*Our thoughts are lofty, proud, and full of ire,
We can be good, or bad, as times require.*

Upon the 20. of this instant, the said Mr. *Everard* and one *Wistany* came to White-Hall to give his Excellency an account of their proceedings in digging up the grounds on *St. Georges Hill* as aforesaid, *Everard*, declared, That he was of the Race of the Jewes, & that all the liberties of the people were lost by the coming in of *William the Conquerour*; and that ever since, the people of God have lived under tyranny and oppression, worse then that of our forefathers under the *Egyptians*.

But now the time of deliverance was at hand, and God would bring his people out of this slavery, and restore them their freedoms in the enjoying the fruits and benefits of the Earth: And that there had lately appeared a Vision to him, which bade him, *Arise, and dig, and plow the Earth, and receive the fruits thereof*: And that their intent is to restore the Creation to its former Condition: And that as God had promised to *make the barren ground fruitfull*. So now, what they did, was to renew the ancient Community of the enjoying the fruits of the Earth, and to distribute the benefits thereof to the poor and Neeedy, to feed the hun-

gry, and to cloath the naked; And that they intend not to meddle with any mans *propriety*, nor to breake down any pailles or Inclosures, but onely to meddle with what was common and untilled, and to make it fruitfull for the use of man. But that the time would suddenly be that all men should willingly come in, and give up their Lands and Estates, and willing to submit to this Community; and for those which shall come in, and work, they shall have meat, drink, and clothes, which is all that is necessary for the life of man; and that for money there was not any need of it, nor of any clothes more then to cover their nakednesse, and that they will not defend themselves by arms, but will submit unto Authority, and wait till the promised opportunity be offered, which they conceived to be neere at hand: and that as their fore-fathers lived in Tents, so it would be suitable to their condition now to live in the same.

Here (they say) they are resolved to stand, and do account their fore fathers principles, a perfect Rule and Standard for them to walk by.

It is observeable, That while *Everard* and *Wistanley* stood before the Lord Generall they stood with their Hats on, and being demanded the reason, said, *Hee was but their fellow Creature*: Being askt the meaning of that place, *Give honour to whom honour is due*. They seemed to be offended, and laid, *That their mouths should be stopped who gave them that offence*.

Whereas

W Hereas by order of the late Lord Major of the City of *London*, and the Commissioners, a precept or order came to the Deputy and Common-councill men of the Ward of *Walbrook*, requiring them to call to their assistance, such able persons as they shall think meet, to assess upon the Inhabitants of their Ward, the sum of 500. l. which was in arrears of the 4. former assessments of the 12, 10, 6, & 4 months, for the L. Gen. *Fairfax* his army, the Common councill men in obedience to that precept, did call to assistance 8. other persons Inhabitants in their Ward, for the more equal rating and assessing of the aforesaid sum, and after long and serious consultation and debate, did finde that the real estates, viz. the Rents of houses had not been rated at all, or not considerable in those 4 assessments; did therefore adjudge it, to be just to lay some considerable part of the 500. l. upon the aforesaid Rents, and they also finding that the Assessors in those 4 assessments, had exceeding overrated the poor people of small estates, and also had exceedingly under rated themselves, and the men of great Estates in the Ward. The now Common councill men finding this great partiality and inequality, did judge it just before God, and all just men, to lay the greatest part of that which remained and not laid on the real estates, upon those of great estates that had bin so much under-rated, that if the rich men had bin rated, proportionably to those of small estates, there would have bin little or none of those arrears, judging it very unjust and contrary to Gods command, to and oppression to oppression, also contrary to the true intent and meaning of the Ordinances of parl. Having taken this course for the more spe-
by

dy getting in of the aforeſaid arrears, & alſo to prevent future arrears, did finiſh the books, and according to order ſent them in. But upon the complaint of ſome of the Ward, together with ſuch of the Comon-council as were aſſeſſors of thoſe unequal aſſeſſments, to the Lord Mayor and Commiſſ. We the now aſſeſſors were ſent for before them, and notwithstanding we made it clear to the commiſſ. that we had ſo aſſeſſed it as was moſt agreeable to Gods command to take of heavy burdens, & to relieve the oppreſſed, which we alſo declared was the true intent and meaning of the Ord. of parl. & alſo diſcharge our truſt; yet were we overawed and commanded to take the book & alter it, to take off from the rich, and to lay it on ſuch as wee knew to be over-rated before, and yet had paid which we judged unreaſonable, we alſo told the Aldermen, that their evill example in rating themſelves ſo low in every aſſeſſment upon occaſion that no rich men in any Ward, would be rated proportionably to the eſtates, & did plead, & do ſtil plead that an Alderman was but ſo much, & ſhould they be rated equally with, or more then an Ald. We alſo told them that we did expect that as it was their duty, ſo they would have given us in command all the aſſeſſors of every Ward in London, to have conſidered ſuch as had bin over-rated to have eaſed them, & alſo ſuch as had been under-rated, to have laid the more on them. This was much ſtood upon, and by ſome answered with bitter expreſſions, and angry countenances; but our concluſions was with them thus, That we did hope in the ſincerity of our hearts we had obeyed Gods command in taking off heavy burdens, and in relieving of ſome of the oppreſſed, and letting others that were more oppreſſed go free, and that if they (the Commiſſioners) did lay thoſe burdens on again, the ſin ſhould lie at their doors, and they ſhould answer for it, we had diſcharged our truſt. We know it to be juſt, that he that is worth 1000. l. ſhould be rated ten times ſo much as hee that

is worth 100.l. and so proportionably from the least estate to the greatest, and he that hath the greatest estate hath the greatest advantage by this Rule of proportion; and if the Wards men be wise in their elections of common-council men, let them look upon such as are godly, wise men, of the middle rank of men, and make choice of such men they will find will act most and best for them and the publique. What injustice, unequality, and oppression hath bin used and exercised upon the poor and men of small estates in all former assessments the like hath been in a great measure in every Ward in levying men and armes to attend their Captains and Commanders in the Trayned Bands, as an Alderman, or great rich man to send three men and peradventure sends but one, it may be none at all; when a poor man of small estate shall go forth, and find his own armes; this is also a great injustice and oppression.

Letters from Sir Charles Coote in Ireland, say, That he is straightly besieged in *London-Derry*, and unless hee have speedy relief, he wil be forced to surrender upon mercy. *Dublin* is in great distress, and col. *Monk* in the North even at the last gasp: But several Regiments of Horse and Foot are now designed for their relief, and the Council of the Army to avoid all differences, resolved, that lots should be cast for those Regiments that were to goe, and accordingly on Friday last, the Colonels of each Regiments casting, the Lots fel upon these Regiments to go, viz.

Of Foot, Colonel *Emers*, Col. *Cooks*, Col. *Deans*, Col. *Hemsons*. Of Horse, Commissary Gen. *Ireton*, Major Gen. *Lamberts*, Col. *Scroops*, Col. *Harloes*.

Of Col. *Okey's* Dragoons, five Troops, viz. Major *Abbots*, Capt. *Mercers*, Capt. *Fulchers*, Cap. *Boltars*, and Captain *Garlands*.