

To his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Principal Secretary of State &c

The Underwritten Case is most humbly submitted

That I Ralph Griffiths of Hoxton having Advertized a Pamphlett entitled Copies of the Letters & Papers delivered at their Execution by the nine Rebels who suffered Death July 30th 1746 the whole Impression of which (before they were ready for Sale or one Book sold) was seized by virtue of your Grace's Warrant, & together with myself and Printer carried to your Grace's Office in the Treasury, where it appearing that the said Pamphlett was only the Produce of my own Invention myself and the Printer were discharged, after having engaged to appear again if called for, but the Pamphletts were detained

May it please your Grace, two Days after I and the Printer were again carried to your Grace's Office, together with a new Impression of this Pamphlett, in which I had expunged or altered every Passage or Word which in the first could possibly be construed so as to give the least Offence to any but the Friends of his most sacred Majesty King George, the whole being intended to mortify the Jacobites. We were again permitted to return home with Orders not to print any more of these Pamphletts, this second Impression being also detained for that the Publication was disapproved. This Injunction, my Lord Duke, was implicitly obeyed and I am on Account of this Affair a sufferer to the amount of at least forty Pounds

May it please your Grace, I am a young Man of no fortune, have a Family to maintain, and no means of subsisting but by my Pen. During the late Rebellion I wrote and published at my own Expence, several Tracts against the Pretender & his wicked Attempt, but by most of these Pieces I was a considerable Lover, as were many others who contributed to glut the Publick with such Writings. At the same Time all other Literary Works were suspended and I was almost ruined, being forced to contract considerable Debts, which by the blessing of Providence on my own Industry I doubt not in Time to pay -

In the midst of my Distress I shewed on that behalf Whimsey &c

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In the midst of my Distress I happened on that foolish Whim, on Account of which I am now forced to give
your Grace this Trouble. The above Tract would certainly have retrieved ~~my~~ my Affairs, I had built all my Hopes
upon it and grievous hath been my Disappointment. I have not yet been able to recover my Spirits so as to carry
on my business; my last Hopes are now center'd in your Grace's Justice, Generosity, and Compassion; I earnestly
entreat your Grace to take this my last misfortune into Consideration, and to order me such Relief as your Grace
pleaseth. This I the more confidently presume to sollicit, not being conscious of having done any Thing to
merit your Grace's Displeasure. Whatever your Grace shall please to order in Consideration of what I have
suffered, a most gratefull Sense thereof will ever be retained by

Aug. 25th 1746

Your Grace's most humble Petitioner,
Ralph Griffiths.