

**“Proclamation of the provisional government, 1 April 1820”  
National Records of Scotland, JC21/2/2, page 3**

“Address to the Inhabitants of Great Britain & Ireland. Friends and Countrymen - Roused from that torpid State in which we have been sunk for so many Years, we are at length compelled, from the Extremity of our Sufferings, and the Contempt heaped upon our Petitions for Redress, -to assert our Rights at the hazard of our Lives, and proclaim to the World the real Motives which (if not misrepresented by designing Men, would have united all Ranks) have reduced us to take up Arms for the redress of our common Grievances. The numerous Public Meetings held throughout the Country, has demonstrated to you that the Interests of all Classes are the same. That the Protection of the Life and Property of the Rich Man is the Interest of the poor Man, and in return it is the Interest of the rich to protect the poor from the Iron Grasp of Despotism; for when its Victims are exhausted in the lower Circles, there is no assurance but that its Ravages will be continued in the upper, for, once set in Motion, it will continue to Move till a succession of Victims fall. Our Principles are few, and founded on the Basis of our Constitution, which were purchased with the dearest Blood of our Ancestors, and which we swear to transmit to Posterity unsullied, or perish in the Attempt. Equality of Rights (not of Property) is the Object for which we contend, and which we consider as the only Security for our Liberties and Lives. Let us show to the World that we are not that Lawless Sanguinary Rabble which our Oppressors would persuade the higher Circles we are, but a brave and generous People, determined to be free. Liberty or Death is our Motto, and we have sworn to return Home in Triumph, or return no more. Soldiers! shall you, Countrymen, bound by the sacred Obligation of an Oath to defend your Country and your King from Enemies, whether foreign or domestic, plunge your Bayonets into the Bosoms of Fathers and Brothers, and at once sacrifice, at the shrine of Military Despotism, to the unrelenting Orders of a cruel Faction, those Feelings which you hold in common with the rest of Mankind? Soldiers! turn your Eyes toward Spain, and there behold the happy Effects resulting from the Union of Soldiers and Citizens. Look to that Quarter, and there behold the Yoke of hated Despotism broke by the unanimous Wish of the People and the Soldiery, happily accomplished without Bloodshed; and shall you, who taught those Soldiers to fight the Battles of Liberty, refuse to fight those of your own Country? Forbid it Heaven! Come forward then at once, and free your country and your King from the Power of those that have held them too, too long in thralldom. Friends and Countrymen, the eventful Period has now arrived where the services of all will be required for the forwarding of an Object so universally wished, and so absolutely necessary. Come forward then and assist those who have begun in the completion of so arduous a Task, and support the laudable Efforts which we are about to make, to replace to Britons those Rights, consecrated to them by Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights, and sweep from our Shores that Corruption which has degraded us below the Dignity of Man. Owing to the Misrepresentation which have gone abroad with regard to our Intentions, we think it indispensably necessary to declare Inviolable all Public and Private Property;

and we hereby call upon all Justices of the Peace, and all others, to suppress Pillage and Plunder of every Description, and to endeavour to secure those Guilty of such Offences, that they may receive that Punishment which such Violation of Justice demand. In the present State of Affairs, and during the Continuation of so momentous a Struggle, We earnestly request of all to desist from their Labour from and after this Day, the first of April, and attend wholly to the recovery of their Rights, and consider it as the Duty of every Man, not to recommence until he is in Possession of those Rights which distinguishes the Freeman from the Slave, viz. that of giving consent to the Laws by which he is to be Governed. We, therefore, recommend to the Proprietors of Public Works, and all others, to stop the one, and shut up the other, until Order is restored, as we will be accountable for no Damages which may be sustained, and which, after this public Intimation, they can have no claim to. And we hereby give Notice to all those who shall be found carrying Arms against those who intend to regenerate their Country, and restore its Inhabitants to their native Dignity, we shall consider them as Traitors to their Country, and Enemies to their King, and treat them as such.-By order of the Committee of Organization for forming a Provisional Government.- Glasgow, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1820. Britons! God, Justice, the Wishes of all Good Men, are with us; join together and make it one Cause, and the Nations of the Earth shall hail the Day, when the Standard of Liberty shall be raised on its native Soil"