A Lent-Sermon Preached at White-hall,  
February 20. 1628. [1628/9]

JAMES 2:12. SO SPEAK YE, AND SO DO, AS THEY THAT SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY.

This is one of those seven Epistles, which Athenasius and Origen call'd Catholic; that is, universal; perchance because they are not directed to any one Church, as some others are, but to all the Christian world: And S. Hierom call'd them Canonical; perchance because all Rules, all Canons of holy Conversation are compriz'd in these Epistles: And Epiphanius, and Oecumenius call'd them Circular; perchance, because as in a Circle, you cannot discern which was the first point, nor in which, the compass begun the Circle; so neither can we discern in these Epistles, whom the Holy Ghost begins withall, whom he means principally, King or Subject, Priest or People, Single or Married, Husband or Wife, Father or Children, Masters or Servants; but Universally, promiscuously, indifferent, they give All rules, for All actions, to All persons, at All times, and in All places; As in this Text, in particular, which is not, by any precedent, or subsequent relation, by any connexion or coherence, directed upon any company, or any Degree of Men: for the Apostle does not say, Ye Princes, nor ye people; but ye, ye in general, to all, So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty: So these Epistles are Catholic, so they are Canonical, and they are Circular so. But yet, though in a Circle we know not where the compass began, we know not which was the first point; yet we