offences are of soe high a nature and
dangerous consequence and remayne unpardoned
by anie gracious or speciall pardon, and
to the end that the offendors herein maie
receive such condigne punishm^t as shalbee
fittinge May it please yor most excellent
Matie to graunt unto yor said Atturney yor
Maties most gracious writt of subp^a to bee
directed to the said Alexander Leighton
and to the said other unknowne persons
when they shalbee discovered Comandinge
them thereby at a certaine daie and under
a certaine paine therein to bee lymitted &c

The Answere of Alexander
Leighton unto a Bill in the
Starrchamber preferred by his
Maties Atturney Generall aga^t
the said Defend^t

All advantages of exception to all and everie
the uncertainties and insufficiencies of the
Informacon nowe and alwaies saved and
reserved to him this defendant This dess^t
humblie Confesseth the composinge and
writinge of the booke mencioned in the
Informacon But this defend^t saith that
hee did write and compose the said booke
beyond seas out of his Maties dominions
onlie the drangth or lyneaments excepted,
And this hee did not out of anie malicious
or seditious humor as is alleadged in the
Informacon, but beinge perswaded in Judgem^t
and fearinge in his hart that some greate
and ~~inestimable~~ inevitable evill was towards the State
except by reformacon it were prevented,
as the booke at large specifieth. This
defend^t was moved in Conscience wth the
poore man in Ecclesiastes to set all his
thoughts on worke how under Correction
hee might cast in a voyce for the safegard
of our Syon not beinge moved thereunto