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## BY THE KING—A PROCLAMATION. GEORGE R.

Whereas alarming accounts have been received that the infectious disease (which, with a malignancy equalling if not exceeding that of the plague, has occasioned a dreadful mortality in several parts of Spain, and in our town and garrison of Gibraltar) has spread and extended itself to parts of the Coast of the Mediterranean; And whereas, from the season of the year in which it has continued its ravages in those places where it has already appeared, there is no good ground of confidence or hope that the comparative coldness and the temperature of this climate can afford any obstacle to its introduction and progress in our kingdom:

And whereas we feel it to be incumbent upon us to employ such means as, under the protection and favour of Divine Providence, may be best calculated to guard our loving subjects against the visitation of so dreadful a calamity, we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our royal proclamation, and we do herein, by and with the advice of our said Council, most strictly enjoin and command all our loving subjects, and more especially those residing at any of the sea-port towns, or in any other places on the coasts of this kingdom, whether they may themselves be liable to quarantine or otherwise, as they tender the preservation of their own lives, and the safety and welfare of all the inhabitants of this kingdom, most scrupulously to observe all the laws of quarantine which now are or may hereafter be in force, and all orders made by us, with the advice of our Privy Council, or by our Privy Council, under the authority thereof; and particularly most carefully to avoid any communication with any ship or vessel, or with any person or persons coming therein, from or through the Mediterranean, or from the West Barbary, on the Atlantic Ocean, or from Cadiz, or other

parts of Spain without the Streights, lying to the southward of Cape St Vincent, or from any place to which, by our royal proclamation, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, or by our orders in Council, the laws of quarantine are, or may hereafter, be extended; or with any boat or person therein, coming from or having been on board any such ship, until such ship, vessel, or boat with the crews and persons on-board, and the goods, wares, or merchandizes imported therein, shall have performed their quarantine, in such places and manner as are or shall hereafter be directed in that behalf, and until they respectively shall have been duly discharged therefrom: and we do further strictly exhort, enjoin, and command all Magistrates and persons in authority, and all others our loving subjects, without loss of time, to give information to us, through our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, or to our Privy Council, of any persons that they may know or believe to have offended against any of the said laws or orders; and we do hereby warn all persons whom it may concern, that we have given the strictest orders for enforcing, with the utmost rigour, the most punctual observance of the laws of quarantine, and all the orders, rules, and regulations relating thereto, it being our firm determination, upon serious consideration of the great extent of misery and calamity which a single instance of improvidently neglecting any of these regulations may bring upon our loving subjects, to cause the several penalties which the law has provided, or may provide, to be inflicted upon all those who may be guilty of any offence against the same.

And whereas it is also necessary to take the utmost precaution to prevent the spreading of infection, in case the said malignant disease, or any other of a contagious nature, (which God, in his mercy, avert!) should unhappily manifest itself in any part of our United Kingdom, notwithstanding the pre-

cautions taken to guard against the introduction thereof, we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our said Council, to take measures for the establishment of a Board of Health, to consist of men able, learned, eminent, and experienced in the study and practice of physic, together with persons most capable, from their knowledge of the ports of our kingdoms, to afford assistance in the forming of regulations respectively applicable to the local circumstances of the said ports; such Board to be authorised and directed to prepare and digest the best rules and regulations for the speedy and effectual adoption of the most approved methods of guarding against the introduction and spreading of infection, and for purifying any ship or house, or any place in which any contagious disorder may have manifested itself, and to communicate the same to all Magistrates, medical persons, and others of our loving subjects, who may be desirous, and may apply to be made acquainted therewith; and we most strictly enjoin and command all Magistrates and persons in authority, all medical persons, and others our loving subjects, especially those within the maritime counties, to give immediate notice to us, through our principal Secretary of State for the home department, or our Privy Council, in case any person or persons should be attacked with any fever, attended with new and uncommon symptoms, such as to afford ground for apprehension that such fever of the same nature as the disorder prevailing in several parts of Spain, and in Gibraltar, in order that the most immediate and effectual measures may be taken, as well for affording due and necessary assistance and relief to those afflicted with the same, as for preventing the contagion from spreading amongst our loving subjects.

Given at our Court at the Queen's Palace, the 6th day of February, 1805, and in the 45th year of our reign. — GOD SAVE THE KING.

Price 6d.



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