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From Tuesday October 28, to Saturday November 1, 1760.

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION,

For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality.

GEORGE R.

WE most Seriously and Religiously considering, that it is an indispenfible Duty on Us to be careful, above all other Things, to prelerve and advance the Honour and Service of Almighty God, and to discourage and fupprefs all Vice, Profaneness, Debauchery, and Immorality, which are fo highly difpleafing to God, fo great a Reproach to Our Religion and Government, and (by Means of the frequent ill Examples of the Praftices thereof) have fo fatal a Tendency to the Corruption of many of Our loving Subjects, otherwife Religioufly and Virtuoufly difpofed, and which (if not timely remedied) may juftly draw down the Divine Vengeance on Us and Our Kingdoms: We alfo humbly acknowledging, that We cannot expect the Bleffing and Goodnefs of Almighty God, (by whom Kings reign, and on which We entirely rely) to make Our Reign happy and prosperous to Our Self and Our People, without a Religious Obfervance of God's Holy Laws: To the Intent therefore that Religion, Piety, and good Manners may (according to Our moft hearty Defire) flourish and increafe under Our Administration and Government, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to iflue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby declare Our Royal Purpose and Refolution to difcountenance and punifh all Manner of Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality, in all Perfons of whatsoever Degree or Quality, within this Our Realm, and particularly in fuch as are employed near Our Royal Perfon; and that for the Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occafions, diftinguifh Perfons of Piety and Virtue, by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And We do expect and require, that all Perfons of Honour, or in Place of Authority, will give good Example by their own Virtue and Piety, and to their utmoft contribute to the Difcountenancing Perfons of difolute and debauched Lives, that they, being reduced by that Means to Shame and Contempt, for their loofe and evil Actions and Behaviour, may be thereby alfo enforced the fooner to reform their ill Habits and Praftices, and that the vifible Difpleafure of Good Men towards them may, (as far as it is poffible) fupply what the Laws (probably) cannot altogether prevent. And We do hereby ftrictly enjoyn and prohibit, all Our loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality foever, from playing on the Lord's Day at Dice, Cards, or any other Game whatsoever, either in Public or Private Houfes, or other Place or Places whatsoever; and We do hereby require and command them, and every of them, decently and reverently to attend the Worfhup of God on every Lord's Day, on Pain of Our higheft Difpleafure, and of being proceeded againft with the utmoft Rigour that may be by Law. And for the more effectual reforming all fuch Perfons, who, by reafon of their difolute Lives and Converfations, are a Scandal to Our Kingdom, Our further Pleafure is, and We do hereby ftrictly charge and command all Our

Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Juftices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Minifters, both Ecclefiaftical and Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it may concern, to be very vigilant and ftrict in the Difcovery, and the effectual Profecution and Punifhment of all Perfons, who fhall be guilty of exceffive Drinking, Blafphemy, Profane Swearing and Curfing, Lewdnefs, Prophanation of the Lord's Day, or other difolute, immoral, or diforderly Praftices; and that they take Care alfo effectually to fupprefs all Public Gaming Houfes and Places, and other lewd and diforderly Houfes, and to put in Execution the Statute made in the Twenty-ninth Year of the Reign of the late King Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for the better Obfervation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday." And alfo an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of the late King William the Third, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual Suppreffing of Blafphemy and Prophaneness;" and all other Laws now in Force for the Punifhing and Suppreffing any of the Vices aforefaid; and alfo to fupprefs and prevent all Gaming whatsoever in Public or Private Houfes on the Lord's Day; and likewife, that they take effectual Care to prevent all Perfons keeping Taverns, Chocolate-houfes, Coffee-houfes, or other Public Houfes whatsoever, from felling Wine, Chocolate, Coffee, Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, or receiving or permitting Guefts to be or remain in fuch their Houfes in the Time of Divine Service on the Lord's Day, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our higheft Difpleafure. And for the more effectual Proceeding herein, We do hereby direct and command all Our Judges of Affize, and Juftices of the Peace, to give ftrict Charges at their refpective Affizes and Seflions, for the due Profecution and Punifhment of all Perfons that fhall prefume to offend in any of the Kinds aforefaid; and alfo of all Perfons that, contrary to their Duty, fhall be remifs or negligent in putting the faid Laws in Execution; and that they do, at their refpective Affizes and Quarter Seflions of the Peace, caufe this Our Royal Proclamation to be publickly read in open Court immediately before the Charge is given. And We do hereby further charge and command every Minifter in his refpective Parifh-Church or Chapel to read, or caufe to be read, this Our Proclamation, at leaft four Times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and fir up their refpective Auditors to the Praftice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness. And to the End that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue praftifed by all Officers, private Soldiers, Mariners, and others, who are employed in Our Service by Sea and Land, We do hereby ftrictly charge and command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, that they do take Care to avoid all Profaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by their own good and virtuous Lives and Converfations, they do fet good Examples to all fuch as are under their Care and Authority; and likewife take Care of and infpect the Behaviour of all fuch as are under them; and punifh all thofe who fhall be guilty of any the Offences aforefaid, as they will be answerable for the ill Confequences of their Neglect herein.

Given at Our Court at Leicefter Houfe the Thirtieth firft Day of October 1760. and in the Firft Year of Our Reign.
 G. O. S. Save the K. I. N. G.

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