

The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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WEDNESDAY, March 22, 1769.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,
For the Suppressing Riots, Tumults, and Unlawful
Assemblies.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS it has been represented to Us, that divers dissolute and disorderly Persons have most riotously and unlawfully assembled themselves together, to the Disturbance of the publick Peace; and have, in a most daring and audacious Manner, assaulted several Merchants and others coming to Our Palace at St. James's, and have committed many Acts of Violence and Outrage before the Gates of Our Palace; and that these Acts of Violence have been accompanied with Threats of a most dangerous Kind; We, taking the same into Our most serious Consideration, and being resolved to suppress all such tumultuous Riots and Disorders, tending to the Disturbance of the Publick Peace, and to the Endangering of all Order and Government, have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby strictly charging and commanding the Lord Mayor, and the Justices of the Peace of Our City of London, and the Justices of the Peace of Our City and Liberties of Westminster, and Borough of Southwark, and of the Counties of Middlesex and Surry, that they do use their utmost Endeavours to prevent and suppress all Riots, Tumults, and unlawful Assemblies; and to put in due and strict Execution the Laws and Statutes made for preventing, and for the more speedy and effectual suppressing and punishing the same; and that all Our loving Subjects be aiding and assisting therein.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the Twenty-second Day of March, One thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, in the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

GOD save the KING.

St. James's, March 22.

This Day a most numerous Body of the Merchants, Traders, and other principal Inhabitants of the City of London, waited on His Majesty; and being introduced to His Majesty by the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, they presented the following Address.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Merchants, Traders, and other principal Inhabitants of your City of Lon-

[Piec Two-pence Halfpenny.]

don, truly sensible, that it has been your Majesty's constant Care and principal Object, since you ascended the Throne of your illustrious Ancestors, to secure to your People the full Enjoyment of their Religion, Laws, and Liberties inviolable, and to make them happy and flourishing, under your Majesty's most auspicious Government, beg Leave to profess our steady Loyalty and Duty to your Majesty, and our firm Resolution to exert our utmost Power in supporting the Honour and Dignity of your Majesty's Crown, in preserving the Safety, Peace, and Tranquility of your Majesty's Realms, in maintaining Public Credit, and promoting Commerce, for the Benefit of your Subjects throughout your Dominions.

And we beg Leave to express our Concern and Abhorrence of every Attempt to spread Sedition, to inflame the Minds, and alienate the Affections of a free and loyal People from the best of Kings, and his Government, which we apprehend has of late been encouraged, without the least Shadow of Foundation, by some few ill-designing Persons, to answer sinister and selfish Purposes.

And we most sincerely pray Almighty God, that your Majesty's great and bright Example of Piety, Goodness and Clemency, may operate so effectually upon the Minds of your People, as to suppress that Spirit of Licentiousness, Profaneness, and Irreligion, which has been industriously propagated, to delude the Unwary to their own Destruction; and that the same good Providence will grant your Majesty a long and happy Reign over a dutiful and loyal People, and bless your Endeavours with Success, in a firm and permanent Establishment of our most excellent Constitution, which is not only admired, but envied by all Foreign Nations.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return this most gracious Answer.

THE just Sense you entertain of My Desire to secure to My People the full Enjoyment of their Religion, Laws, and Liberties; and the strong Assurances you give Me of your Resolution to support the Dignity of My Crown, to preserve Peace among My Subjects, to maintain Publick Credit, and to promote Commerce, afford Me the greatest Satisfaction; as well as your Abhorrence of that inflammatory Spirit of Sedition, which it has been the Business of artful and specious Misrepresentation to propagate.

The warm Wishes you express for the Stability and Permanence of this happy Constitution, and the Interest you take in My Prosperity, will always deserve My Favor and Protection.

They were all most graciously received, and had the Honour to kiss his Majesty's Hand.