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From Monday June 7. to Thursday June 10. 1680.

Whitehall, June 8.

This day was published His Majesties Declaration, which follows,

CHARLES R.

WE cannot but take notice of the great Industry and Malice, wherewith some Men of a bedivious and Restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report, of a Marriage, or Contract of Marriage, suppoled to be had and made between Us, and one Mrs. Walters, alias Ba low, now deceased, Mother of the present Duke of Monmouth, aiming thereby to fill the minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question, the clear undoubted Right of Our True and Lawful Heirs, and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our Self obliged, to let Our Loving Subjects see, what steps, We (out of Our Care of them and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences, that so dangerous and malicious a Report may have in future times, upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms:

In January last was Twelvemonth, We made a Declaration, written with Our own Hand, in these Words following,

THere being a false and malicious Report, industriously spread abroad by some, who are neither friends to Me, or the Duke of Monmouth, as if I should have been enter Contracted, or Married to his Mother; and though I am most conscientious, that his idle Story cannot have any effect in this Age, yet I thought in My Duty, in Relation to the true Succession of his Crown, and that future Ages may not have any pretence to give disturbance up in that sort, or any other of this nature, to Declare, as I do here Declare, in the presence of Almighty God, That I never was Married, nor gave any Contract to any Woman whatsoever, but to my Wife, Queen Catherine, to whom I am now Married. In witness whereof, I set my Hand at Whitehall, the 5th of January, 1679.

CHARLES R.

And this Declaration I make in the presence of

W. Cant. H. Coventry.
H. Finch. C. F. Williamfon.

TO strengthen which Declaration, We did in March following (which was March last was Twelvemonth) make a more publick Declaration in Our Privy Council, written likewise with Our own Hand; and having caused a true Transcript thereof, to be Entred in Our Council Books, We Signed it, and caused the Lords of Our Privy Council, then attending Us in Council, to subscribe the same likewise, And We ordered the Original to be kept in the Council Chest, where it now remains. The Entry whereof in the Council Book, is in these words following.

At the Court at Whitehall, March the 3d. 1679.

Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty,

Lord Chancellor
Lord Treasurer
Duke of Lauderdale
Marquess of Worcester
Earl of Ossory
Lord Chamberlain
Earl of Sunderland
Earl of Clarendon
Earl of Essex
Earl of Bath
Earl of Craven
Earl of Aylesbury
Lord Bishop of London
Lord Bishop of Durham
Lord Mavyard
Mr. Vice-Chamberlain.

His Majesty was this day pleased to Command, That the Declaration hereafter following, be entred in the Council Book, it being all Written, and Signed by His Majesties own Hand, in a Paper which His Majesty this day delivered at the Board, to be kept in the Council Chest, viz,

For the Avoiding of any Dispute what may happen in time to come, concerning the Succession of the Crown, I do here Declare in the presence of Almighty God, That I never gave nor made any Contract of Marriage, nor was Married to any Woman whatsoever, but to My present Wife, Queen Catherine now living: Whitehall, the Third day of March 1679.

CHARLES R.

His Majesty Commanded us who were present at the Making and Signing this Declaration, to Attest the same,

Finch C. Essex
Danby Bath
Lauderdale Craven
Worcester Aylesbury
Ossory H. London
Arlington N. Durham
Sunderland W. Mavyard
Clarendon G. Carteret.

IN April last We found the same Rumour, not only revived again, but also improved with new Additions, To w^{it}. It was given out, That there was a Writing yet extant, and lately produced before several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a Contract at least (for the Report was various) would appear, and that there are several Lords, and others yet living, who were pretended to have been present at the said Marriage. We knew full well, that it was impossible, that any thing of this should be true, (there being nothing more groundless and false, than that there was any such Marriage or Contract, between Us and the said Mrs. Walters, alias Barlow) yet We proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Interrogated in Council, such Lords, and other Persons, as the common Rumour did surmise to have been present at the pretended Marriage, or to know something of it, or of the said Writing; And though it appeared to all Our Council, upon the hearing of the said Lords and other Persons, severally Interrogated, and upon their denying to have been present at any such Marriage, or to know any thing of it, or of any such Writing, That the raising and spreading of such a Report, so incoherent in the several parts of it, was the effect of deep Malice in some few, and of loose and idle Discourse in others; Yet We think it requisite at this time, to make Our Declarations above recited, more publick; and to Order the same (as We do hereby, with the Advice of Our Privy Council) to be forthwith Printed, and declared upon the Faith of a King, that there was never any Marriage, had, or made, between Mrs. Walters, alias Barlow, the Duke of M^{tw}een Us, and any Woman whatsoever, Queen Catherine, that now is, only And We do hereby strictly Re- Subjects whatsoever, that they lish any thing, contrary to the on, at their Peril, and upon pain according to the utmost Severity an

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, June, in the 10th and 11th.

Prague, June 1. The Th^{at} Majesty remove from from thence, its believed to London section spreading it self every day more a in this City, and its neighborhood. The last week several of the Boors, that were taken in Arms against the Emperor, were executed, and its hoped, their punishment will deter others.

Francfort, June 5. There has lately been Printed and dispers'd in these parts, a Paper, containing several Conditions offered, as is pretended, by the French