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From **Thursday** March 11. to **Monday** March 15. 1685.

A Proclamation of the King's Majesties most Gracious and General Pardon.

JAMES R.

W Hereas soon after Our Coronation, We had given Order for preparing of a Bill, containing Our most Gracious, General, and Free Pardon to Our Loving Subjects; with Intention to have passed the same into an Act in the first Session of Our Parliament, but were unhappily prevented therein by the late most unnatural Rebellion, which, since it hath pleased Almighty God by His Blessing upon Our Arms to suppress, We have thought fit to renew Our Princely Intentions of Grace and Mercy to Our Subjects, especially considering the steadfast Loyalty of the far greater number of Our Subjects, who continued firm in their Obedience to Us notwithstanding that Rebellion: And being persuaded that many of those who joined themselves in that Rebellion being poor Labourers and Handicraftsmen, were drawn and seduced thereto by the subtle and crafty Insinuations of some ill-disposed Persons of greater Note and Quality than themselves, and not from their Own Evil Rancour of Mind and Traiterous Aversion to Us or Our Government, whose Condition We in Our Princely Clemency commiserating; And to the end their Fears and Despair of Our Mercy may not betray them to Evil and Lewd Courses of Life, but that they may with safety return to their Obedience to Us, and to their former Habitations, Labours, and Employments. And that the Minds of other Our Subjects may be quieted, and that all Fears and Jealousies which may concern their Curiosity for any matter since Our Reign, or in the Reign of Our late Dear y beloved Brother, be removed and wholly taken away, as much as in Us lies, We of Our especial Grace and Tenderness to Our People, do hereby Publish and Declare this Our most Royal and Gracious Pardon; And We do hereby for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, Pardon, Acquit, Release and Discharge all and every Our Subjects (except Bodies Politick and Incorporate, and such other Persons who shall be herein or hereby excepted) of this Our Realm of England, Dominion of Wales, and the Town of Berwick upon Tweed, their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, them and every of them against Us, Our Heirs and Successors, of, and from all manner of Treasons, Felonies, Misprisons of Treason or Felony, Treasonable or Seditious Words or Libels, Seditious and unlawful Meetings and Conventicles, and Offences whereby any Person may be Charged with the Penalty and Danger of Præmunire; All Riots, Routs, Offences, Contempts, Trespases, and Misdemeanours and all Judgments and Convictions for not coming to Church, and of and from the Forfeitures and Penalties for the same, or any of them heretofore had, committed or done, except as herein or hereby after is excepted. And Our Will and Pleasure is, That neither Our said Subjects nor any of them, nor the Heirs, Executors, or Administrators of any of them, be, or shall be sued, vexed or disquieted in their Bodies, Goods or Chattels, Lands or Tenements, for any manner of Matter, Cause, Contempt, Misdemeanour, Forfeiture, Offence, or any other thing heretofore suffered, done, or committed or omitted against Us or Our late Brother, His or Our Crown, Dignity, Prerogative, Laws or Statutes, and not herein or hereby after excepted. And that this Our Grant of General Pardon, by the general Words, Clauses and Sentences before rehearsed, shall be reputed, deemed, adjudged, expounded, allowed and taken in all manner of Our Courts and elsewhere, most beneficially and liberally for Our said Subjects, thereby Pardoned in all things not hereafter excepted, as if their particular Persons and Crimes had herein been at large and fully expressed.

Excepted and always foreprized out of this Our Pardon, all Treasons Committed or Done in the Parts beyond the Seas, or in any other Place out of this Realm; And also Excepted all Offences in Forging or False Counterfeiting the Great or Privy Seal, Sign Manual, or Privy Signet, or any of Our Monies Current within this Our Realm, or of unlawful Diminution of any of the said Monies by any ways or means whatsoever, and all Abetting, Aiding, Comforting, or Procuring the said Offences, or any of them.

And also Excepted all voluntary Murders, Petty Treasons, Wifful Poisonings, and all Offences of being accessory to the same, or any of them before the Fact committed; And also all Piracies and Robberies committed upon the Sea, Robberies upon the High ways, Burglaries, Houses, and all Offences of being Accessary to the said Offences, or any of them.

And also Excepted the detestable and abominable Vice of Buggery committed with Man or Beast; All Rape and Carnal Ravishments of Women. All Ravishments and Wilful taking away or Marring of any Maid, Widow or Damel against her will, or without the Consent or Agreement of her Parents, or of such as then had her in Custody, an all Offences of Aiding, Comforting, Abetting, or Procuring the said Offences, or any of them.

And also Excepted, all Offences of Perjury, Subornation of Witnesses, Razing, Forging or Counterfeiting in Deeds, Escrips, Inquisitions, Indentures of Appraisment or other Writings or Publishing the same, Forging or Counterfeiting any Examinations or Testimonies of any Witness or Witness remaining to bring any Person or Persons into danger of his Life, and all Procuring and Counselling of any of the said Offences.

And also Except, all Treasons, Offences, Misdemeanour and Contempts, other then such for which Judgment of Præmunire hath or may be given or for not coming to Church, of, and for which any Indictments, Actions, Bill Plaint or Information, or other Process at any time within six years last past, hath been commenced, sued or depended in any of his Majesties Courts at Westminster, or other His Majesties Courts of Record held within the Cities of London and Westminster, and County of Middlesex, and is there depending or remaining to be prosecuted, or whereupon any Verdict, Judgment, Outlawry, or Decree is already given, Awarded or Entered, and all Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties thereupon now due or accrued, or which shall or may be due, accrue, or grow to the Kings Majesty, and all Executions for the same.

And also Except, all Informations and other Proceedings concerning High-ways and Bridges, or for Repairing County Goals, and all Fines and Issues set or Returned thereupon since the year One thousand six hundred seventy nine.

And also Except, all Offences in taking away, imbezzelling, or purloining any Goods, Money, Chattels, Jewels, Armour, Munition, Stores, Naval Provisions, Shipping Ordnance, or other Placiments of War belonging to Us or Our late Brother.

And also Except, all Offences of Incest, Dilapidations, or Simony.

And also Except, all Contempts and Process thereupon issuing in or out of any Court of Equity.

And also Except, all Recognizances, Conditions, and Covenants, and all Penalties, Titles, and Forfeitures of Offices, Conditions, or Covenants forfeited, accrued, or grown to Us, or to Our late Brother, by reason of the Breach or not performing of any Office, Covenant, or Condition whatsoever.

Also Excepted all Concealments, Frauds, Corruptions Misdemeanours, and Offences whereby We or Our late Brother