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Edinburgh, February 24.

ON Thursday, the 17th Instant, His Majesties Gracious Letter to the Lords of His Majesties most Honourable Privy Council of this Kingdom was read at the Board; After which their Lordships Unanimously Ordered, That His Majesties Royal Proclamation therein Enclosed should be published here the next day, which was accordingly performed with great Solemnity and Demonstrations of Joy. The Copies of which Gracious Letter and Proclamation, together with the Councils dutiful Answer to His Majesty thereupon, do here follow.

His Majesties Letter to His Privy Council of Scotland.

JAMES R.

Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousins and Councellor, Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Councellor, Right Trusty and Entirely-beloved Cousins and Councellors, Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousins and Councellors, Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousins and Councellors, Right Trusty and Well-beloved Councellors, and Trusty and Well-beloved Councellors, We Greet you well. Whereas by Our Letter of the 21st day of August last past, We were Graciously pleased to inform you of Our Designs in order to the Ease of Our Roman Catholick Subjects, unto which We had your Dutiful Answer in some days thereafter; We have now thought fit to publish these Our Royal Intentions, and to give an Additional Ease to those of Tender Consciences, so to convince the World of Our Inclinations to Moderation, and to evidence that those of the Clergy who have been Regular, are Our most particular Care; though We have given some Ease to those whose Principles We can with any Safety trust: We have at the same time expressed Our highest Indignation against those Enemies of Christianity as well as Government and Humane Society, The Field-Convencions, whom We recommend to you to Root out with all the Severities of Our Laws; and with the most vigorous Prosecution of Our Forces, it being equally Our, and Our People's Concern, to be rid of them. As for the other Particulars of Our Royal Proclamation here inclosed, We doubt not but they will appear to you most just and reasonable as they do to Us, and that you will in your respective Capacities assert and defend Our Royal Rights and Prerogatives, which We are resolved to maintain in that Splendor and Greatness which can only make them safe for Us, Supports for Our Friends, and Terrors to Our Enemies. It is evident, We do not mean to encroach on the

Consciences of any, and what We will not do, We are resolved not to suffer in others: And therefore it is Our Will and Pleasure, That these Our Commands be forthwith obeyed, and that in order thereunto, this Our Proclamation be forthwith Printed and Published in the usual manner in such Cases accustomed; And if any shall be so bold as to shew any dislike of this Our Procedour, We desire to be informed thereof by you, To the end We may convince the World that We are in Earnest, assuring All, That as We expect Obedience therein, and a Readiness from you and all Our Judicatures to assert Our Rights, so it shall be Our Care on all Occasions to shew Our Royal Favours to all of you in General, and to every one in Particular. For doing all these things as well contained in this Our Letter, as in Our Proclamation aforesaid, These Presents shall be to you, and all others respectively who may be therein anyway concerned, a sufficient Warrant. And so We bid you Heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the 12th day of February 1685. And of Our Reign the Third Year.

By His Majesties Command,

MELFORT,

By the KING.

A. P R O C L A M A T I O N.

JAMES R.

JA M E S the Seventh, by the Grace of GOD, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and sundry Our Good Subjects, whom these presents do or may concern, Greeting: We having taken into Our Royal Consideration the many and great inconveniencies, which have happened to that Our Ancient Kingdom of Scotland, in late years, through the different Persecutions in the Christian Religion; and the great Heats and Animosities amongst the several Professors thereof; so the ruine and decay of Trade, wasting of Lands, extinguishting of Charity, contempt of the Royal Power, and contumaciousness of true Religion; and the Fear of GOD, into Animosities, Divisions, Factions, and sometimes into Sacrilege and Treason. And being resolved, as much as in Us lieth, to Untie the Heats and Affections of Our Subjects to GOD in Religion; to Us in Loyalty; and to their Neighbours in Christian Love and Charity: Have therefore thought fit to Grant and by Our Sovereign Authority, Prerogative Royal, and Absolute Power, which all Our Subjects are to obey without Reserve; Do hereby Give and Grant Our Royal

lik' o'her Crimes, which never us'd to be comprehended in Our general Acts of Indemnity. And We Command and Require all Our Judges, or others concerned, to Explain this in the most Ample Sense and Meaning Acts of Indemnity at any time have contained: Declaring this shall be as good to every one concerned, as if they had Our Royal Pardon and Remission under Our Great Seal of that Kingdom. And likewise Indemnifying Our Protestant Subjects from all Pains and Penalties due for Hearing or Preaching in Houses; Providing there be no Treasonable Speeches uttered in the said Conventicles by them, in which Case the Law is only to take place against the Guilty, and none other present: Providing also that they Reveal to any of Our Council the Guilt so Committed; As also, Excepting all Fines or Effects of Sentences already given; And likewise Indemnifying fully and freely all Quakers, for their Meetings and Worship, in all time past, preceeding the Publication of these Presents; And We doubt not but Our Protestant Subjects will give their Assistance and Concourse hereunto, on all Occasions; in their respective Capacities: In consideration whereof, and the Ease those of Our Religion, and others may have hereby, and for the Encouragement of Our Protestant-Bishops, and the Regular Clergy, and such as have hitherto lived orderly, We think fit to Declare, that it never was Our Principle, nor will We ever suffer Violence to be offered to any Mans Conscience, nor will We use Force, or Inevincible Necessity against any Man on the account of his Persuasion, nor the Protestant Religion, but will Protect Our Bishops and other Ministers in their Functions, Rights and Properties, and all Our Protestant Subjects in the free Exercise of their Protestant Religion in the Churches; And that We Will, and hereby Promise, on Our Royal Word, to Maintain, the Possessors of Church-Lands formerly belonging to Abbays, or other Churches of the Catholick Religion, in their full and free Possession and Right, according to Our Laws and Acts of Parliament in that behalf in all time coming; And We will Employ indifferently all Our Subjects, of all Persuasions, so as none shall meet with any Discouragement on the account of his Religion, but be Advanced, and Esteemed by Us, according to their several Capacities and Qualifications, so long as We find Charity and Unity Maintained: And if any Animosities shall Arise, as We hope in God there will not, We will shew the surest Effects of Our Royal Displeasure against the Beginners or Fomenters thereof, seeing thereby Our Subjects may be Deprived of this general Ease and Satisfaction, We intend to all of them, whose Happiness, Prosperity, Wealth and Safety, is so much Our Royal Care, that We will leave nothing undone which may procure these Blessings for them. And lastly, To the End all Our Good Subjects may have Notice of this Our Royal Will and Pleasure, We do hereby Command, Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren, Heralds, Maces, Pursuivants and Messengers at Arms, to make timely Proclamation thereof at the Mercat-Cross of Edinburgh; And besides the Printing and Publishing of this Our Royal Proclamation, it is Our express Will and Pleasure, that the same be first under the Great Seal of that Our Kingdom per saltum, without passing any other Seal or Register: In Order whereunto, this shall be to the Directors of Our Chancery, and their Deputies for Writing the same, and to Our Chancellor for causing Our Great Seal aforesaid to be Appended thereunto, a sufficient Warrant.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Twelfth day of February 1685. And of Our Reign the Third Year.

By His Majesties Command,
MELFORT.

The Answer of the Lords of the Council to His Majesties Letter,

May it please Your Most Sacred Majesty,

YOUR Majesties Commands are Exactly Obedy; Your Royal Proclamation is Printed and Published, by which Your Majesty hath given a farther Evidence of Your Favor and Goodness to all Your Subjects. And we are hopeful, that by Your Majesties extraordinary Acts of Mercy to some who have been too ready on many Occasions to abuse the Clemency of Your Royal Predecessors, they will be at last convinced what they owe to so Gracious a King; And if any shall be still so obstinate as to make any wrong Use of Your Majesties Goodness, We do Unanimously assure Your Majesty, That we will maintain and assert Your Royal Preogatives and Authority with the hazard of our Lives and Fortunes; And all of us shall in our several Capacities do our Utmost, that Your Government may be easie to all whom Your Majesty thinks worthy of Your Protection.

We are very willing that Your Majesties Subjects who are Peaceable and Loyal, may be at Ease and Security, notwithstanding of their Profession and Private Worship, and do conceive that such of them as are or shall be employed by Your Majesty in Offices of Trust Civil or Military, are sufficiently secured by Your Majesties Authority and Commission for their exercising the same.

We return Your Majesty our most humble Thanks for giving Us Your Royal Word for maintaining the Church and our Religion as it is now Established by Law, and rest satisfied; believing Your Majesties Promise to be the best and greatest Security we can have. We are;

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesties most Humble, most Faithful;

And most Obedient Subjects and Servants.

Edinburgh, 24.
Febr. 1685.

Signed by

The Earl of Perth Lord High Chancellor, the Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, the Lord Archbishop of Glasgow Elect, the Lord Marquis of Atholl Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, the Duke of Gordon, the Lord Marquis of Douglas, the Earl of Linlithgow, the Earl of Dumfries, the Earl of Strathmore, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Southesk, the Earl of Traquair, the Earl of Ards, the Earl of Belcarres, the Lord Viscount of Tarbat, the Lord Viscount of Strathallan, the Lord Livingston, the Lord Kinaird, Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath Lord President of the Session, Sir John Dalrymple younger of Stair Lord Advocate, Sir James Foulis of Colinton Lord Justice Clerk, Sir John Lockhart of Castlehill one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Lieutenant General James Douglas, Sir Andrew Ramsay of Abbotshall, Major General John Graham of Claverhouse, and Andrew Wauchope of Nidry.

And His Majesties said Privy Council having Ordered, That the said Letter should afterwards be Signed by such of the Councillors as were not then present; It was accordingly Signed at Westminster by the Earl of Morray, and the Earl of Melfort, Principal Secretaries of State for the said Kingdom; the Earl of Argyll, the Earl of Drumlanrig, the Earl of Winton, the Earl of Sutherland, the Earl of Argyll, and the Earl of Dunbar.

Rmt.

Rome, Feb. 8. On Sunday last the Queen of Sweden gave a most Noble Entertainment of Musick to the Earl of Castlemain, Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Great Britain; the subject of the Composition being upon His Majesties Happy Succession to the Crown; The Chief Parts were performed by 5 of the best Voices of Rome, a hundred Voices more making up the Chorus, and a hundred and fifty Instruments the Symphonie. Her Majesty having for this Solemnity, laid aside her Mourning for the Empress Dowager, appeared very splendid, and was attended with about 200 Roman Ladies of the best Quality, all in their richest Attire and Jewels. The Tuesday following his Excellency was Treated with a sumptuous Feast by Cardinal Barbarin, at which were likewise Cardinal Alieri, Cardinal Howard, Cardinal Pamphilio, and Cardinal Barbarigo; The Palace was hung with his richest Tapestries, and in the middle of the chief Room of State was the King's Picture on Horseback, under a rich Canopy; After the Desert, which was thrown among the Crowd with great Profusion, there was an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, the whole subject being likewise in praise of His Majesty. And on Thursday his Excellency was invited to the Opera at Cardinal Pamphilio's, which was also purposely Composed in Honor of the King; nor were there wanting great quantities of Sweet Meats, Aqua-Frescas, and other Galantries, with which his Excellency and whole Train are usually Entertained in all his Visits.

Vienne, Feb. 20. Colonel Parz arrived here some days ago to give the Emperor an account of the condition of the Conquered places on the Danube. He met near Salazar a Convoy of 300 Waggon, which was going from Szig to Five Churches. The Danube being now open again, a great many Vessels will in few days pass down that River with all sorts of Ammunition and Provisions for Buda. They write from Upper Hungary, that a Deserter who came from Temeswar reported that Count Tackey is dead of the Wound he received in the late Encounter with the Imperialists. The great Convoy is safely arrived at Five Churches.

Hamburg, Feb. 28. They write from Romeren, that the King of Sweden had sent Orders for the reinforcing the Garisons of Stralsund and Ström. The last Letters from Stockholm gave an Account of the death of the young Prince Carolina Gustava.

Hague, March 7. The States of Holland Adjourned on Saturday last to the 17th of this Month, without taking any resolution about the raising of Money, which was the principal Matter they had in consideration. The Prince of Orange is gone to Dieren to pass 8 or 10 days there. Prince Wulduk arrived here last Sunday from Germany.

Paris, March 8. The Cardinal Nuncio had the last week a Conference with Monsieur de Croissy Secretary of State, about the matter of the Franchise; and it's said, He is to have another Audience of the King upon this subject, after his Majesties return from Madras. On Tuesday last several Companies of the Swiss-Guards began their march towards Ipres, to relieve those in Garrison there, who are to come and work on the Canal of the River Eure. And the eighteen Companies of the French Guards that were ordered to Lisle and Tournay, will likewise begin their march in a day or two. There is now no more discourse of the King's journey towards Alsace. His Majesty took this day a Review of his Guards at March. We have an account from Sugh, that the Ambassadors of Spain embarked there the 28th of the last Month on the King's Ships, which were to sail the next day. They write from Italy that a Marriage is Treating between the Prince of Tuscany and the Infanta of Portugal. It's reported that the Ve-

nicians have taken 4 Turkish Ships that were going from Egypt to Constantinople with Provisions and Ammunition.

Whitehall, March 1. The Count de Caumetz, Envoy Extraordinary from the Emperor, had yesterday Audience of her R. H. the Princess Anne, and this day of his R. H. Prince George of Denmarke, being conducted by Sir Charles Cotrel Master of the Ceremonies.

Whitehall, March 1. The Right Honourable the Earl of Craven, Custos Rotularum for the County of Middlesex; this day acquainted His Majesty, That the Bench of Justices of Peace for the said County, had desired his Lordship (at their general Sessions of the Peace) in their Names, Humbly to beseech His Majesty to be Graciously pleased to Grant the same Dispensation from taking the Oaths to the Protestant Justices, He has been pleased to Grant to the Catholicks; but in such manner as His Majesty shall think fit. Which Message His Majesty was pleased to receive very Graciously, and was pleased to say, He took kindly their putting that Confidence in Him, and He would certainly take care of them.

Navy-Office, London, Febr. 28. The Season of the Year for Felling of Timber being now at hand, and to the end all Persons concerned as Owners of any Woods convertible to Straight, Compass or Knee Timber or Plank, fit for the Service of His Majesties Navy, may have opportunity of improving the same, by their timely applying themselves to the Felling and Converting their said Woods: The Commissioners and Principal Officers of the Navy do hereby give Notice, That they are and will be in a daily readiness at their Office in Crutched-Fryers, London, to receive all Tendets and Proposals that shall be offered them in Writing on that behalf, and to Treat and Contract with any Persons authorized thereto by the Proprietors of the said Woods, upon Terms of Payment to be adjusted and secured to their Satisfaction.

Advertisements.

His Majesty having been Graciously pleased to Grant a Fair at Houghmow in Middlesex, for a Fortnight Yearly, to begin the First day of May. These are to give all Persons Notice thereof, and that the Two first Days will be Principally for Horses and Mares, and the Two next for Fat and Lean Beasts of all Sorts.

A Boot the 16th of February last, Stolen from Whitehall, an Inside Plate, or a Bottom for a Dish, with a small brim of silver, weighing about 50 Ounces, engraven with His Majesties Arms. Whoever gives Notice thereof to the Officers of His Majesties Jewel-House at Whitehall, shall be well Rewarded.

On the 26th past, from William Chappel at Newington Green, a light bay Horse above 13 hands high, dockt about 3 weeks ago, a white spot on the off-side at the point of the saddle, some hair off his hinder Leg on the near side a little above the hock on the inside, the hair worn off with the trace on his side, above 7 years old, trots all. Whoever brings notice of him to the aforesaid William Chappel, to Mr. Bryon at the Hartthorn Inn in West-Smithfield, shall have 20 s. Reward.

The 27th past, run away from his Colours, one John Hill a Soldier in the Earl of Litchfield's Regiment, in Captain Wharton's Company at Tilbury Fort; he had a Red Coat lined with White, and a black Peruke; and is a thin spare Man about 25 years of Age. Whoever gives Notice of him to Captain Wharton, at his Lodgings in Green-Street near Leiceller-Fields, or to Lieutenant Seppens at Tilbury Fort, shall have a good Reward and all his Charges.

A Woodcot Green at Ebbisham in the County of Surrey, a Bowling Green containing an Acre and Ten Rods, and a piece of Ground adjoining thereto to build upon, is to be Lett. Inquire at Mrs. Lamberts at the Lamb in Thrawoodes-Street near the Royal Exchange.

On the 22d past, between Richmond and Putney Lodging-place, a Point Crevat and Goffs. Whoever brings them to Mr. John Wilford at Billinggate, shall have 10 s. Reward.

Royal Toleration, to the several Professors of the Christian Religion after-named, with, and under the several Conditions, Restrictions, and Limitations after-mentioned. In the first place, We Allow and Tollerate the Moderate Presbyterians, to Meet in their Private Houses, and there to hear all such Ministers, as either have, or are willing to accept of Our Indulgence allanerly, and none other, and that there be not any thing said or done contrary to the Well and Peace of Our Reign, Seditious or Treasonable, under the highest Pains these Crimes will Impore; nor are they to presume to Build Meeting-Houses, or to Use Our-Houses or Barns, but only to Exercise in their Private-Houses, as said is. In the mean time, It is Our Royal Will and Pleasure, that Field-Conventicles, and such as Preach, or Exercise at them; or who shall any ways Assist or Conivie at them, should be Prosecuted according to the utmost severity of Our Laws made against them; seeing from these Rencounters of Rebellion, so much Disorder hath proceeded, and so much Disturbance to the Government, and for which after this Our Royal Indulgence for tender Consciences, there is no excuse left. In like manner, We do hereby Tollerate Quakers, to Meet and Exercise in their Form, in any Place or Places appointed for their Worship. And considering the Severe and Cruel Laws, made against Roman-Catholicks (therein called Papists) in the Minority of Our Royal Grand-Father of Glorious Memory, without His Consent, and contrary to the Duty of good Subjects, by His Rebels, and other Enemies to their lawful Sovereign, Our Royal Great Grand-Mother Queen Mary of Blessed and Pious Memory, wherein, under the presence of Religion, they Cloathed the worst of Treasons, Factions and Usurpations, and made these Laws, not against the Enemies of GOD, but their own; Which Laws have still been continued of course, without design of executing them, or any of them ad terrorem only, on Supposition, that the Papists relying on an External Power, were incapable of Duty, and true Allegiance to their Natural Sovereigns, and Rightful Monarchs; We of Our certain Knowledge, and long Experience, knowing that the Catholicks, as it is their Principle to be Good Christians, so it is to be Dutiful Subjects; and that they have likewise on all Occasions shewn themselves Good and Faithful Subjects to Us, and Our Royal Predecessors, by hazarding, and many of them actually losing their Lives and Fortunes, in their Defence (though of another Religion) and the Maintenance of their Authority against the Violences and Treasons of the most violent Abettors of these Laws; Do therefore with Advice and Consent of Our Privy Council, by Our Sovereign Authority, Prerogative Royal, and Absolute Power aforesaid, Suspend, Stop and Disable all Laws or Acts of Parliament, Customs or Constitutions, made or executed against any of Our Roman Catholick Subjects, in any time past, to all Intents and Purposes, making void all Provisions therein mentioned, Pains or Penalties therein ordained to be Inflicted, so that they shall in all things be as free in all Respects as any of Our Protestant Subjects whatsoever, nor only to exercise their Religion, but to enjoy all Offices, Benefices and others, which we shall think fit to bestow upon them in all time coming; Nevertheless it is Our Will and Pleasure, and We do hereby Command all Catholicks at their highest Pains, only to Exercise their Religious Worship in Houses or Chappels; and that they presume not to Preach in the open Fields, or to Invade the Protestant Churches by force, under the Pains aforesaid, to be inflicted upon the Offenders respectively, nor shall they presume to make Publick Proclamations in the High Streets of any of Our Royal-Burgs, under the Pains above-mentioned. And whereas the Obedience and Service of Our Good Subjects is due to Us by their Allegiance, and Our Sovereignty, and that no Law, Cu-

stom or Constitution, difference in Religion, or other Impediment whatsoever, can exempt or discharge the Subjects from their Native Obligations and Duty to the Crown, or hinder us from protecting & employing them, according to their several Capacities, and Our Royal Pleasure, nor Restrain Us from conferring Heretable Rights and Priviledges upon them, or Vacate or Annul these Rights Heretable, when they are Made or Conferred: And likewise Considering that some Oaths are capable of being Wrested by Men of Sinistrous Intentions, a Practise in that Kingdom, fatal to Religion, as it was to Loyalty; Do therefore, with Advice and Consent aforesaid, Cas, Annul and Discharge all Oaths whatsoever, by which any of Our Subjects are incapacitated, or disabled from holding, Places, or Offices in Our said Kingdom, or enjoying their Hereditary Rights and Priviledges, Discharging the same to be taken or given in any time coming, without Our special Warrant and Consent; under the Pains due to the Contents of Our Royal Commands and Auctority; And to this effect, We do by Our Royal Authority aforesaid, Stop, Disable, and Dispense with all Laws enjoining the said Oaths, Tests, or any of them, particularly the first Act of the first Session of the first Parliament of King Charles the Second; the eleventh Act of the aforesaid Session of the aforesaid Parliament; the sixth Act of the third Parliament of the said King Charles; the twenty first, and twenty fifth Acts of that Parliament; and the thirteenth Act of the first Session of Our late Parliament, in so far allanerly as concerns the taking the Oaths, or Tests therein prescribed, and all others, as well not mentioned as mentioned, and that in place of them, all Our good Subjects, or such of them as We or Our Privy Council shall require so to do, shall take and Swear the following Oath allanerly.

I A. B. do acknowledge, Testifie and Declare, that JAMES the Seventh by the Grace of GOD, King of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. is Rightful King, and Supream Governour of these Realms, and over all persons therein, and that it is unlawful for Subjects, on any pretence, or for any cause whatsoever, to rise in Arms against Him, or any Commissionated by Him; and that I shall never so rise in Arms, nor assist any who shall so do; and that I shall never resist His Power or Authority, nor ever oppose His Authority, to His Person, as I shall answer to GOD, but shall to the utmost of my power Assist, Defend, and Maintain Him, His Heirs and lawful Successors, in the exercise of Their Absolute Power and Authority, against all Deadly, So help me GOD.

And seeing many of Our good Subjects have, before Our Pleasure in these Matters was made Publick, incurred the Guilt appointed by the Acts of Parliament above-mentioned, or others; We, by Our Authority and Absolute Power and Prerogative-Royal above-mentioned, of Our certain Knowledge, and Infinite Mercy, Give Our ample and full Indemnity to all those of the Roman-Catholick or Popish-Religion, for all things by them done contrary to Our Laws, or Acts of Parliament, made in any time past, relating to their Religion, the Worship and Exercise thereof, or for being Papists, Jesuits, or Traffickers, for hearing, or saying of Mass, concealing of Priests, or Jesuits, breeding their Children Catholicks, at home or abroad, or any other Thing Rite or Doctrine, said, performed, or maintained by them, or any of them: And likewise, for holding or taking of Places, Employments, or Offices, contrary to any Law or Constitution, Advices given to Us, or Our Council, Attentions done, or generally any thing performed or said against the known Laws of that Our Ancient Kingdom; Excepting always from this Our Royal Indemnity, all Murders, Assassinations, Treasons, and such like