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From Thursday March 17. to Monday March 21. 1686.

Whitehall, March 18. 1685.

THE King was this day in Council pleased to declare, That He thought fit, for divers weighty Considerations, that the Parliament should be Prorogued from the 28th of April to the 22d of November next. And His Majesty did also acquaint the Council, That He had resolv'd in the mean time to issue out a Declaration for a General Liberty of Conscience to all Persons of what Persuasion soever; Which He was mov'd to, by having observed, That although an Uniformity in Religious Worship had been endeavour'd to be Establish'd within this Kingdom in the Successive Reigns of Four of His Majesties Royal Predecessors, assisted by their respective Parliaments, yet it had prov'd altogether ineffectual. That the Restraint upon the Consciences of Dissenters in order thereunto, had been very prejudicial to this Nation, as was sadly experienced by the Horrid Rebellion in the time of His Majesties Royal Father. That the many Penal Laws made against Dissenters in all the foregoing Reigns, and especially in the time of the late King, had rather encreas'd than lessened the number of them. And that nothing can more conduce to the Peace and Quiet of this Kingdom, and the Encrease of the Number as well as of the Trade of His Subjects, (wherein the Greatness of a Prince does more consist, than in the Extent of His Territories) than an entire Liberty of Conscience; It having always been His Majesties Opinion, as most suitable to the Principles of Christianity, That no Man should be persecuted for Conscience Sake; which His Majesty thinks is not to be forced, and that it can never be the true Interest of a King of England to endeavor to do it.

And His Majesty was also pleas'd to direct His Attorney, and Solicitor General, not to permit any Process to issue in His Majesties Name against any Dissenter whatsoever.

A PROCLAMATION

For further Proroguing the Parliament.

JAMES R.

WHEREAS We lately did Prorogue Our Parliament unto the Twenty eighth Day of April next, We for many Weighty Reasons have thought fit further to Prorogue the same until the Twa and twentieth Day of November next

ensuing the Date hereof: And therefore do by this Our Proclamation Publish and Declare, That the Parliament shall be Prorogued upon and from the said Twenty eighth Day of April until the Two and twentieth Day of November next; Whereof the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses, and all others whom it may Concern, may hereby take Notice, and Order their Affairs accordingly: We letting them know; That we will not at the said Twenty eighth Day of April expect the Attendance of any, but only such as being in or about the Cities of London and Westminster, may attend the making the said Prorogation, as heretofore in like Cases hath been accustomed.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the Eighteenth Day of March, 1685, in the Third Year of Our Reign.

Lisbon, Febr. 25. This day Charles Scarburgh Esq; Envoy Extraordinary from His Majesty of Great Britain, had Audience of the King and the Infanta, to which he was conducted with the usual Ceremonies.

Vienna, March 9. The Advice we had of the arrival of the great Convoy at Five Churches, is confirmed by fresh Letters from Buda, and we understand at the same time, that another Convoy is arriv'd there since. That which the Turks designed for the Relief of Agria, went no farther than Gyula, because of the Advice they received that General Heusler was marching to attack them. General Caraffa continues at Esperis, being busied with remounting the Cavalry, recruiting the Foot, and new cloathing the Soldiers, for which he employs the Monies he hath received from the States of Transilvania and the Towns of Upper Hungary; He continues likewise the Preparations for the Bombarding of Agria, but the weather does not yet permit the execution of this design. The Bassa of Boffina, who was on his march with 6000 Men, to make an Incurfion on the side of Carelstadt, is retired to Novi and Kaltaniza, upon the News he had that the Troops of Croatia were advancing to fight him. According to the Advices we have from all Parts, the Turks make very great Preparations for the next Campaign, and have resolv'd to employ their principal Forces in Hungary. Just now an Express arrives here from Buda, with Advice that Major General Becke had discovered a Correspondence which an Officer of the Regiment of Salme had held with the Turks, in order to betray that Place to them, for which he was to have