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BY THE KING, A PROCLAMATION

For putting in Execution the Law against Importation and Selling of Foreign Buttons, and prohibiting all Foreign Buttons whatsoever.

JAMES R.

WHEREAS for the Encouragement of great Numbers of the Inhabitants of this Our Kingdom, a good and profitable Law was made in the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Our late Brother of Blessed Memory, Intituled, An Act prohibiting the Importation of Foreign Bonelace, Cutwork, Imbroidery, Fringe, Bandstrings, Buttons, and Needlework, That no person or persons whatsoever should from and after the Twenty fourth day of June One thousand six hundred sixty two, Sell or cause to be Sold, or offer to Sale within the Kingdom of England, or Dominion of Wales, or Export any Foreign Bonelace, Cutwork, Imbroidery, Fringe, Bandstrings, Buttons or Needlework, made of Threed and Silk, or any or either of them in Parts beyond the Seas, or Import, Bring in, Sent or Convey, or cause to be brought in, Sent or Conveyed into the Kingdom of England, or Dominion of Wales; any such Foreign Bonelace, Cutwork, Fringe, Imbroidery, Bandstrings, Buttons, or Needlework made of Threed and Silk, or any or either of them, beyond the Seas after the First day of May, which should be in the said Year of our Lord One thousand six hundred sixty and two, upon Pain that all and every person and persons who shall Sell, or cause to be Sold, or offer to Sale any such Foreign Bonelace, Cutwork, Imbroidery, Fringe, Bandstrings, Buttons, or Needlework, shall Forfeit and Lose for every Offence by him Committed contrary to the said Act, the Sum of Fifty Pounds and the whole Bonelace, Cutwork, Imbroidery, Fringe, Bandstrings, Buttons, or Needlework so Sold, or caused to be Sold, or offered to Sale; And upon further Pain, That all and every person and persons who should Import, Bring in, Sent or Convey, or cause to be brought in, Sent or Conveyed into this Our Kingdom of England, or Dominion of Wales, any such Bonelace, Cutwork, Imbroidery, Fringe, Bandstrings, Buttons or Needlework, should Forfeit and Lose for every Offence by him Committed contrary to the said Act, the Sum of One hundred pounds, and the whole Commodities aforesaid; And although by the plain intent and meaning of the said Act, all Foreign Buttons whatsoever were Prohibited to be Imported or put to Sale within this Our Kingdom, Yet we are given to understand, by the Humble Petition of many of Our Poor Subjects brought up in the Trade of Button-making, that several persons of late, for their own private Lucre, have Imported and Sold within this Our Kingdom, divers great quantities of Foreign Hair-Buttons, to the utter Ruine of multitudes of Families who have been Exercised and Maintained in and by the Trade of Button-making, as well in and about Our City of London as in other parts of Our Kingdom, whereby the great Mischiefs intended to be Redressed by the said Act, are likely to fall heavy upon Our Poor Subjects, and humbly praying the timely Interposition of Our Princely Care therein, We were most Graciously pleased to hear the Matter Debated by the Council of the Merchants Importers, and of the Button-Makers before Our Self in Council; Upon hearing whereof, receiving Satisfaction, That by the true meaning of the Law, all manner of Foreign Buttons were intended to be Prohibited, and that the late Practice fit on Foot of Importing Hair-Buttons, if continued, will Overthrow and Frustrate the main Design of the said Act, to the inevitable Ruine of Multitudes of Our Poor Subjects, as was fully made appear to Us; And being likewise satisfied that the late Practice received Encouragement from the Doubtful Penning of some Parts of the said Act, though the Principal Scope and Design of the Law was to Exclude the whole Manufacture of Foreign Buttons, which possibly may engage Our Poor Subjects of that Trade in many Expensive Suits at Law: For prevention whereof, and the Mischiefs which are likely to ensue upon such an Evil Practice, We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Publish and declare Our Pleasure to be, That the said Act be duly and effectually observed and put in Execution against all Importers and Sellers of Foreign Buttons, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Act. And to prevent all Disputes herein for the Justice, We do by this Our Royal Proclamation strictly Charge, Prohibit and Command, That no Person or Persons, Native or others do, or shall from henceforth

Import or Bring in, or cause to be Imported or brought into this Our Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, or Part or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, any Foreign Buttons whatsoever, made or to be made in any Foreign Parts whatsoever, by way of Merchandize, or to be Sold, Bartered or Exchanged. And that no Person or Persons shall at any time hereafter Directly or Indirectly Buy, Bargain or Contract for or concerning the Importation of any Foreign Buttons, of what sort or kind soever, or Utter or Sell any Foreign Buttons whatsoever, which from henceforth shall be Imported from any Parts beyond the Seas, upon Pain of such Punishment as by Law may be Inflicted upon Concerners of Our Royal Authority. And We do further Charge and Command as well the Commissioners of Our Customs, Cust-mers, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, and all other Officers of Our Custom-Houses and Ports in Our Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and our Part or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, and also all our Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bayliffs, Headboroughs, Constables, and other Our Officers Civil within Our said Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Part or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, to Seize and Destroy, or to cause to be Seized and Destroyed all such Foreign Buttons which from henceforth shall be Imported or Bartered, Sold or Exchanged, contrary to Our Royal Pleasure herein Declared, in whose hands soever they shall be found, and to Bind over, or cause to be Bound over, the Offenders herein, to Appear in Our Court of Kings Bench, to answer their Contempt herein at Our Suit, and to be in all other Respects from time to time Aiding and Assisting in all things requisite for and touching the Observation and Execution of these Our Commands, as they will Answer to Us the contrary.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the Eighteenth day of November, in the Third Year of Our Reign.

The following Addresses have been Presented to the King, which His Majesty received very Graciously.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of the Master, Wardens, and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers, of Your Majesties City of London.

Most Gracious and Dread Sovereign!

WE your Majesties most Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, according to our bounden Duty, do, with all real Cheerfulness, and the highest Gratitude, acknowledge the Blessings we, and all other your Majesties Subjects have, ever since it pleased Almighty God to place and settle you in the Royal Throne of your Ancestors, received under your Gracious Government; And, in a special manner, We humbly return to your Majesty our hearty and undesigned Thanks for your Majesties late Gracious Declaration; and for that thereby your Majesty is pleased to give us full Assurance of Enjoyment, under your Majesties Sacred Provisions, as well of our Civil Rights and Properties, as of our Religion and Liberty of Conscience: For which Royal Grace and Favor to your People, the least Return we can make, is the Offer of our Lives and Fortunes to be devoted to your Majesties Service. And we humbly pray to Almighty God, That your Majesties Reign may be Long, Happy, and Auspicious, accompanied with the great Blessings of Health, Peace, and Prosperity. In Testimony whereof, We have herewith caused the Common Seal of our Company to be fixed the Seventeenth day of November in the Third Year of your Majesties Reign.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty,

The humble Address of Your Majesties dissenting Subjects in and about the Borough of Leves, and Town of Brightwell in Your County of Suffex.

Dread Sovereign!

THE Transcendency of your Princely Wisdom and Generosity, as well as Care of, and Tenderness towards your People, which so eminently appears in your late most Gracious Healing Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, especially as founded upon the Grounds and Reasons therein declared, may justly fill the Hearts of all your Loyal Subjects with Admiration, as they are by the blessed Fruits and Effects thereof filled with Gladness