

The London Gazette.

Numb. 3161

Published by Authority.

From Monday February 24. to Thursday February 27. 1695.

Whitehall, Feb. 26.

BY the Great Mercy of God a Discovery has been made of a most Horrid and Detestable Conspiracy, in which many Wicked and Traiterous Persons were Engaged, to Assassinate His Majesty when he went abroad. At the same time a Rising was intended within the Kingdom; and an Invasion from France: To which end divers French Troops were drawn towards Dunkirk and Calais, and Transport Vessels and Boats were got together at those Places; of all which His Majesty having received several Concurring Informations and Advices, Orders were given for apprehending the Conspirators; many of whom have been already seiz'd, and such strict Search is made after the rest, that his hoped few or none of them will escape the Hands of Justice. The Forces in England are in a readiness to march; and a Considerable Body of His Majesty's Troops in Flanders lie ready to Embark at Ostend. Admiral Russell is in the Downs with a Squadron of His Majesty's Ships, who will be daily reinforced by other Men of War from the River and Spithead. And the care that has been taken for the Defence and Safety of the Kingdom will we doubt not, with the Blessing of God, be sufficient to disappoint the Designs of our Enemies.

Westminster, Feb. 24. This Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, attended with the usual Solemnity; and being in his Royal Robs. seated on the Throne, and the Commons being sent for up, his Majesty gave the Royal Assent to

An Act for Taking, Examining, and Stating the Publick Accounts.

An Act for Repairing the High-Ways, between the City of London and the Town of Harwich, in the County of Essex.

And to two Private Acts.

After which His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, which follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am come hither this Day upon an Extraordinary Occasion, which might have proved Fatal, if it had not been Disappointed by the singular Mercy and Goodness of God, and may now, by the Continuance of the same Providence and Our own Prudent Endeavours, be so improved, as to become a sufficient Warning to Us to provide for Our Security against the pernicious Practices and Attempts of Our Enemies.

I have Received several concurring Informations of a Design to Assassinate Me, and that Our Enemies at the same Time are very forward in their Preparations for a sudden Invasion of this Kingdom, and have therefore thought it necessary to use no time in Acquainting My Parliament with these things, in which the Safety of the Kingdom and the Publick Welfare are so nearly concerned, that I assure My Self nothing will be omitted on your Part, which may be thought proper for Our present or future Security.

I have not been wanting to give the Necessary Orders for the Fleet; and I hope We have such a Strength of Ships, and in such a Readiness, as will be sufficient to Disappoint the Intentions of Our Enemies.

I have also Dispatched Orders for Bringing home such a Number of Our Troops, as may Secure Us from any Attempts.

Some of the Conspirators against my Person are already in Custody, and Care is taken to Apprehend so many of the rest as are Discovered, and such other Orders are given, as the present Exigency of Affairs does absolutely Require at this Time for the Publick Safety.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Having now Acquainted you with the Danger which hath Threatned Us, I cannot Doubt of your Readiness and Zeal to do every thing which you shall Judge Proper for

Our Common Safety: And I perswade My Self We must be all sensible how Necessary it is in Our present Circumstances, that all possible Dispatch should be given to the Business before you.

The Humble Address of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in Parliament Assembled.

Die Lunæ 24. Febr. 1695.

WE Your Majesties most Loyal and Dutiful Subjects the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, having taken into our Serious Consideration what Your Majesty hath been pleased to Communicate to us this Day, think it our Duty, in the first Place, to give Your Majesty most humble Thanks, for having Acquainted Your Parliament with the great Danger Your Sacred Person hath been so nearly Exposed to, and the Design of an Invasion from our Enemies Abroad; We heartily Congratulate Your Majesty's Happy Preservation, and Thankfully Acknowledge the Signal Providence of God in it; and at the same time Declare our Detestation and Abhorrence of so Vilanous and Barbarous a Design. And since the Safety and Welfare of Your Majesty's Dominions do so Entirely Depend upon Your Life, we most humbly Beseech Your Majesty to take more than ordinary Care of Your Royal Person, and we take this Occasion to Assure Your Majesty of our utmost Assistance to Defend Your Person and Support Your Government, against the late King James, and all other Your Enemies both at Home and Abroad; hereby Declaring to all the World, That in Case Your Majesty shall come to any Violent Death (which God forbid) we will Revenge the same upon all Your Enemies and their Adherents; and as an Instance of our Zeal for Your Majesty's Service, we will give all possible Dispatch to the Publick Business; And we make it our Desire to Your Majesty, to Seize and Secure all Persons, Houses and Arms, that Your Majesty may think fit to Apprehend upon this Occasion.

His Majesty's most Gracious Answer to the Address of both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Thank you heartily for this kind Address; on My Part you may be Assured that I will do all that is within My Power for the Preservation of this Kingdom, to which I have so many Obligations; I will readily Venture My Life for Preserving it, and Recommend My Self to the Continuance of your Loyalty and Good Affections.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION.

WILLIAM R.

WHEREAS His Majesty hath received Information upon Oath, That the Persons herein after named, have with divers other Wicked and Traiterous Persons, entered into a horrid and Detestable Conspiracy, to Assassinate and Murder His Majesty's Sacred Person; for which Cause several Warrants for High Treason have been Issued out against them, but they have withdrawn themselves from their usual Places of Abode, and are fled from Justice; His Majesty hath therefore thought fit (by the Advice of His Privy Council) to Issue His Royal Proclamation; and His Majesty does hereby Command and Require all His Loving Subjects to Discover, Take and Apprehend James Duke of Berwick, Sir George Barclay, Major Lowick, George Porter, Captain Stok, Captain Walbank, Captain James Courtney, Lieutenant Sherburne, Brice Blaire, Dinant, Chambers, Boitt, George Higgens, and his two Brothers, Sons to Sir Thomas Higgens,