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From Thursday May 21. to Monday May 25. 1696.

By the Lords-Justices,

A PROCLAMATION

For a General F A S T.

Tho. Cantuar. J. Sommers C. S. Pembroke C. P. S.
Devonshire. Shrewsbury. Dorset. Godolphin.

WE taking into Our most serious Consideration the continued War, in which His Majesty (Our Gracious Sovereign) together with most of the Princes and States of Europe, are Engaged against the French King, and that upon the Success thereof the Common Safety of His Majesties Kingdom doth, under God, wholly depend, and putting Our trust in Almighty God, that he will Vouchsafe a Special Blessing on His Majesties Righteous Undertakings, and Consummate the Deliverance of these Nations, by Settling the same in a firm and lasting State of Peace, Security, and Prosperity, have thought fit to Appoint, and do (by and with the Advice of His Majesties most Honourable Privy Council) hereby Appoint and Command a General and Publick Fast, and Humiliation, to be Observed throughout His Majesties Realm of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, in most Devout and Solemn Manner, for Supplicating Almighty God for the Pardon of Our Sins, and for Imploring His Blessing and Protection in the Preservation of His Majesties Sacred Person, and Prosperity of His Arms both at Land and Sea, on Friday the Twenty sixth Day of June. And for the more orderly Solemnizing of the same, We have given Directions to the Right Reverend the Bishops of this Kingdom, to Compose a Form of Prayer suitable to this Occasion, to be used in all Churches and Chappels, and other Places of Publick Worship, and to take care for the timely Dispersing of the same through their several Dioceses in the whole Kingdom. And We do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Fastings and Prayers be Soberly, Reverently and Decently performed by all His Majesties Loving Subjects, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and upon Pain of such Punishments as His Majesty can justly inflict upon all such as shall Contemn or Neglect so Religious a Work.

Given at the Council Chamber at Whitehall, the Three and Twentieth Day of May, 1696. In the Eighth Year of His Majesties Reign.

Vienna, May 16. N.S. General Caprara, who is to command the Imperial Army under the Elector of Saxony, intends to set out for Hungary the next week, and his Electoral Highness within few days after. The Forces march in the mean time to their Rendezvous near Buda, where several Regiments are already arrived; They will, when joyned together, make a Body of above 50000 Men, all old Troops, which is a strength sufficient not only to oppose any Force the Enemy can bring into the Field, consisting mostly of raw undisciplined Men, but to make some considerable Attempt upon them: The Advices from the Frontiers continue to speak of their preparations for the Campaign; and to say, that the Sultan is expected at Belgrade about the middle of the next month. The last Letters from Transylvania tell us, the Emperor's Forces there were going to form a Camp, for the security of that Country. The Accounts from Poland confirm the March of the Moscovites against the Tartars, and 'tis the common Opinion, that they will try again their Fortune against the City of Asaf, by renewing the Siege of it.

Hilbronn, May 22. The Marschal de Choiseul passed the Rhine the 19th Instant at Philipsburg, with about 10000 Horse and 15000 Foot, and encamped yesterday at

Brucksal, and this day at Gochseim, within 3 Leagues of Steppach, where the Germans have been encamped since the 16th Instant under the command of the Margrave of Bareith. They are at present between 18 and 20000 strong; and Prince Lewis of Baden, as also 3 Regiments more of the Circles are expected there to morrow; and the Bavarian and Palatin Troops, who are to join them, are on their march.

Frankfort, May 24. The Confederate Forces who had their Rendezvous near Hilbronn, are advanced towards Eppingen, and have possessed themselves of a very advantageous Camp, where they will expect the rest of the Troops, who are marching to join them. The French have passed the Rhine at Philipsburg, and were by our last Advice encamped within 3 Leagues of the Germans; 'Tis believed their chief design is to destroy the Forage on that side. The Forces of the Landgrave of Hesse march towards Coblenz.

Cologne, May 25. The Brandenburg Forces, that had their Winter Quarters in these parts, are all marched towards Brabant. The Troops of the Elector of Cologne, and Bishoprick of Liege, do the like. And we hear, that the Forces of the Landgrave of Hesse are coming this way.

Hamburgh, May 25. The Troops of the Duke of Holstein which are entered into the Service of the Allies, being 2000 Foot, and 500 Horse, are on their march towards the Maese. The Treaty between the King of Denmark and the Duke of Holstein proceeds very slowly; and as yet they cannot agree upon the Preliminaries.

Paris, May 25. The French Fleet arrived at Brest the 5th Instant, having had a very long passage from Toulon, and lost a great many Men by Sickness; Their number is said to be 47 Men of War. The Marquis de Nesmond is still abroad with his small Squadron; and there is no news of Monsieur de Renasid since he went out. The Duke de Chartres went hence yesterday to the Army in Flanders commanded by the Marschal Villeroi, which by our last Letters was encamped near Deynse, and the Marschal de Boufflers near Flerus. They write from Perpignan, that the Spanish Army advanced towards Gironne, and that the Duke de Vendosme drew together the Forces under his command to oppose them. The last Letters from Piedmont, which are of the 15th Instant, say, the French Forces were not yet marched into the Plains, and that the Duke of Savoy was putting himself in a posture to dispute their passage. 'Tis reported, that the Queen Mother of Spain is dead.

Brussels, May 27. His Majesty's Army encamps near Ghent; and that commanded by the Elector of Bavaria at Parke-Abby near Louvain, stretching towards Tilledmont; whither his Electoral Highness will be going from hence in 3 or 4 days. The Marschal de Villeroi continues in his Camp between the Schelde and the Lys, within half a League of Deynse, having his head Quarters at Machlen; and the Marschal de Boufflers at Flerus; The latter has caused several Bridges to be laid over the Sambre, to be ready for his retreat as there may be occasion. Mr. Wolfley, His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary at this Court, had his Audience of Leave of the Elector the 25th Instant with the usual Ceremonies.

Hague, May 29. N. S. The King was Complimented at Loo by the Count d'Autel, Envoy from the Elector Palatin; and by the Baron de Velen from the Bishop of Munster, and was attended by all the Gentry of those parts. The 27th His Majesty went to Dieren, and on Friday His Majesty intends to go to Breda, and from thence to the Army; Our Camps both in Flanders and Brabant increase every day. The Princess Albertina of Nassau, Daughter to Prince Frederick Henry, and Mother to the late Prince of Nassau, Stadtholder of Friseland, died the 24th Instant at Leewacrdon. There are Letters from Spain which say the Queen Mother is dead of the Cancer in her Breast.

W. ymouthe,