

The London Gazette.

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From Monday March 22. to Thursday March 25. 1697.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION

For a General FAST.

WILLIAM R.

FOR the Imploring a Blessing from Almighty God, upon His Majesty, and all His Dominions, and for the Averting of those Judgments which our manifold Sins and Provocations have most justly Deerved, *Thou Kings most Excellent Majesty has thought fit, and doth (by the Advice of his Privy Council) hereby Appoint and Command, That a General Fast, and Day of Solemn Humiliation be Kept and Observed throughout His Majesties Realm of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, in most Devout and Solemn Manner, on Wednesday the Twenty eighth Day of April next. And for the more orderly Solemnizing of the same, His Majesty has 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 His Majesty doth strictly Charge and Command, That the said Fastings and Prayers be Soberly, Reverently and Decently performed by all His Loving Subject, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and upon Pain of such Punishments as can justly be inflicted upon all such as shall Contemn or Neglect so Religious a Work.*

Given at Our Court at Kensington the Eighteenth Day of March, 1697. In the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

Messina, Febr. 18. N. S. Letters from Malta of the 8th Instant give an account of the Death of the Great Master Vignacourt on the 4th, and on the 7th Don Raimondo Parillos, a Spaniard, was chosen in his place. The Trumbull Galley from Smirna departed hence on the 12th Instant for England. The Panther, and the Valkeren a Dutch Privateer, are now in this Port.

Madrid, March 1. The King of Spain is perfectly recovered of his late Illness. Three Regiments of Foot, quartered in Estremadura, are ordered to march to Catalonia; and 1000 Horses are bought up by order of the Court to remount our Cavalry there. The Letters from Cadix of the 17th past give an account of the arrival of several English Ships in that Port; to wit, the Blackham Galley from London, the Lawrence Galley from Bilboa, the William and James from Dublin; and the Mayflower from Ireland. Several other English Ships are departed out of that Port, as the Mary for Bristol, the Richardson and Flavel Galleys for the Canaries, the James for Alicante, and the Blackham for Smirna.

Genoa, March 10. By a Vessel from Argiers we have Advice, that the Emperor of Morocco marches with a great Army against that Government, to revenge the Spoil the Algerines made the last year within his Territories; They are fitting out at Argiers a Squadron of their Ships, which is to join the Turkish Fleet in the Levant.

Leghorne, March 11. The Great Duke came hither on the 19th Instant from Pisa, intending to pass some time in this place. The Mary-Rose, Capt. Thomas Rogers, arrived here about a fortnight ago from Ireland; and the Hopewell, Capt. Bruce, from Yarmouth. The 3d Instant came in the Blackham Privateer, Capt. Rogge's Commander; and the Ship called the Prince John Gistone, who departed hence the same day for Venice, returned into Port by reason of the Winds coming contrary. A French Ship commanded by Capt. Rossi, arrived here this week, having had a short Passage from Alexandria; where the

Cloudsly and Slaughter Galleys were both lading for England. This day sailed out of this Road 5 English Ships, the Bolton, Macclesfield, Rooke, Bridger, and Bousdventure, all homeward-bound.

Milan, March 12. A general Review was made the last week of all the Forces now in the Service of this State, and several Officers of Horse and Foot are reformed. His discomfited, that two Italian Regiments of Foot, one of Suiffers, and 12 Troops of Horse, are to be sent to Catalonia; and that Money has been remitted hither by the Viceroy of Naples, for this Service. The Marquis de St. Thomas, the Duke of Savoy's Chief Minister, arrived here some days ago, and having had several Conferences with our Governor, returned to Turin. Our Governor is going to Loretto, to meet the Count d'Alamira, the Spanish Ambassador, residing at Rome, and some other Persons of Quality, to confer with them about the publick Affairs.

Venice, March 15. A great Convoy will depart from hence the next week with Soldiers, Money, and Provisions, for the Levant. The last Advices from thence say, that great preparations are making both by the Venetians and the Turks for the next Campaigne. The Ormond Galley, Capt. Robinson, is now under sail for Zeffalonia and London.

Vienna, March 16. Orders have been sent to all the Emperor's Forces that are to serve this Summer against the Turks, to be in a readiness to leave their Quarters by the middle of the next month; and the Danube being now clear of Ice, a great many Vessels are lading here with Provisions, Ammunition, and other Necessaries for the Imperial Army in Hungary: His expected the Emperor will now in few days declare the General Officers to command it: The Elector of Saxony is expected here presently after Easter. Prince Lewis of Baden continues to have frequent Conferences with the Ministers of this Court about the Affairs of Germany, and will return thither very suddenly. The Count de Harach, the Emperor's Minister to the Court of Spain, begun his Journey thither the last week; and the Bishop of Passau prepares for his Embassy to Poland.

Francfort, March 24. The Deputies of the Circle of the Upper-Rhine, who met together in this place, are separated, and gone home; They have resolved to furnish 5000 Men, to serve this Campaigne in the Army of the Empire under the command of Prince Lewis; and to keep constantly on foot their Quota of the Troops, which, according to what was lately resolved in the General Dyec of the Six Circles, are to be maintained as well in time of Peace as War; and to send Deputies, to the Treaty of a General Peace, on the behalf of the said Circle. An other General Meeting of the Six Circles above-mentioned, is appointed here for the 15th of the next month.

Cologne, March 26. As the Spring advances, so the Preparations are hurried for the Campaigne; The Forces of the Allies have Orders to be ready to take the Field upon the first Command; General Taungen, who has been to view them at their several Quarters, is returned to Mentz; of which he is Governor; and he is taking care to put that place into the best posture of Defence that may be; The like is done at Coblentz; and 4000 Munsteriens are on their march, in order to post themselves near the last of these places, that they may be in a readiness to reinforce that Garrison, or to march farther as there may be occasion. The Allies are building several Forts on the River Main, between Mentz, Francfort, and Aeschaffenburg; and have likewise cast up Works in several little Islands in the Rhine, and in other places, to defend the Passage of this River. The French at the same time make great Magazines at Landaw, Philipsburg, and other Frontier Garrisons, and their Troops quartered in Burgundy, and other remote Places, begin to move towards Alsace. The Deputies of the Circle of Westphalia are most of them arrived in order to their meeting in this City. The Brandenburg Forces quartered in this Country, are ordered to march towards the Meuse.

Hamburgk,