

Thus the Proceeding moved to *Whitehall Gate*, only the Lord Mayor, accompanied as before by *Garret* and the Usher of the Black Rod, attended His Majesty to the Foot of the Stairs in *Whitehall* leading up to the Guard-Chamber, where humbly taking Leave of His Majesty, his Lordship and the Aldermen were conducted into the Lodgings, and Treated with a Noble Supper by my Lord Steward.

The Balconies and Windows were adorned with rich Hangings and Tapestries, and crouded with infinite Numbers of Spectators, and all the Streets as His Majesty passed rang with loud Acclamations of Joy.

At the East End of *St. Paul's* were placed the Hospital Boys, one of which made a Congratulatory Oration to His Majesty.

The whole Ceremony was performed with great Order: The Cannon at the Tower were discharged at His Majesty's taking Coach, and at His passing over the Bridge; His Majesty's Foot-Guards gave 3 Volleys in *St. James's-Park*; and the Evening concluded with Bonfires, Illuminations, Ringing of Bells, and all other Demonstrations of Dutiful Affection to His Majesty's Sacred Person and Government.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION, For a Publick THANKSGIVING.

WILLIAM R.

WHEREAS it hath Pleased Almighty God in His great Goodness to put an End to the late War, in which His Majesty and His Allies were engaged against the French King, by the Conclusion of Peace between His Majesty and the Princes and States in Confederacy with Him, and the said French King, upon such a Foundation as by the Blessing of God may prove effectual to procure a Firm and Lasting Tranquillity to Europe; His Majesty therefore Adoring the Divine Goodness, and duly considering that such great and publick Blessings do call for publick and solemn Acknowledgements, hath thought fit, (by the Advice of His Privy Council) to Issue this His Royal Proclamation, hereby appointing and commanding, that a General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for these His Mercies be observed throughout this Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, on Thursday the second day of December next; And for the better and more orderly Solemnizing the same, We have given Directions to the Most Reverend the Archbishops and Right Reverend the Bishops of this Kingdom, to Compose a Form of Prayer suitable to this Occasion, to be used in all Churches and Chapels, and other Places of Publick Worship, and to take Care for the timely dispersing of the same throughout their respective Dioceses; And We do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Publick Day of Thanksgiving be Religiously observed by all Our Loving Subjects as they tender the favour of Almighty God, and upon Pain of suffering such Punishment as We can justly inflict upon all such who shall contemn or neglect the same.

Given at Our Court at *Kensington*, the 17th day of November, 1697. In the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION.

WILLIAM R.

HIS Majesty having been Detained beyond the Seas by contrary Winds longer then he intended, and being desirous that there should be a full Appearance of Members at the Opening of the next Sessions, His Majesty hath thought fit, with the Advice of His Privy Council, to Declare His Pleasure, That the Parliament which stands now Prorogued to the Three and Twentieth day of this instant November, shall be then further Prorogued to the Third Day of December next, on which Day they are to Meet and Sit for the Dispatch of divers Weighty, and Important Affairs. And all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the House of Commons, are hereby Required and Commanded to give their Attendance accordingly at Westminster on the said Third Day of December next.

Given at Our Court at *Kensington*, the 17th day of November, 1697. In the Ninth Year of Our Reign.

Whitehall, Nov. 17. This day the Vice-Chancellor, with several Heads of Colledges, and the Proctors of the University of Oxford, attended His Majesty, being introduced by his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and presented the following Address, which His Majesty received very graciously, and was pleased to assure them of His Royal Favour and Protection.

May it please your Most Excellent Majesty,

WE Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, Your University of Oxford, and we humbly beg leave to cast our selves at Your Royal Feet, with this Tender of our Duty and Testimony of our sincerest Joy, for Your Majesty's late prosperous Return to Your Kingdoms in Peace, Safety, and Honour.

Under the deepest sense of Gratitude and Devotion, we adore the Goodness of Almighty God, who in his most wise Providence hath entrusted Your Majesty with the Execution of those Great and Glorious Enterprizes, which our Eyes have seen, and all the World stands amazed at. Who, after the Deliverance of our Church and State, soon call'd You to the Protection of so many Neighbouring Nations; who hath constantly defended You from the manifold Dangers of Sea and Land; who hath strengthened Your Hand and covered Your Head in the Day of Battle, and who, at length, hath blessed Your Auspicious Arms, with what Your Majesty always propos'd as the only just end of War, an Honourable and an Happy Peace.

Amidst that Universal Joy for which Europe is indebted to the Courage and Conduct of Your Sacred Majesty, We bring this Early Tribute of Thanks and Allegiance, from Your Majesty's most Faithful and Loyal University. It will always be the Ambition of that Ancient Seat of Learning, to be Exemplary both in the Doctrine and Practice of Fidelity and Submission, Duty and Affection to Your Royal Person and Government. Nor can we make any other Conscientious Return for all those Uncommon Privileges which we enjoy, first by the Bounty of Almighty God, and next, by the Favour of Your Sacred Majesty.

May the same Propitious Providence which hath hitherto preserved Your Majesty, Defend and Prolong Your Reign, in a fruitful Increase of Peace and Glory;