

# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday March 26. to Monday March 30. 1702.

By the QUEEN,

## A PROCLAMATION,

For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophaneness, and Immorality.

ANNE R.

**W** E most Seriously and Religiously Considering, That it is an Indispensible Duty on Us, to be Careful, above all other things, to Preserve and Advance the Honour and Service of Almighty God, and to Discourage and Suppress all Vice, Prophaneness, Immorality, and Immorality, which are so highly Displeasing to God, so much a Reproach to our Religion and Government, and (by means of the many ill Examples of the Practicers thereof) have so fatal a Tendency to the Corruption of many of Our Loving Subjects, otherwise Religiously and faithfully Disposed, and which (if not timely Reclaimed) may justly draw down the Divine Vengeance on Us and Our Kingdoms: We also humbly Acknowledge, That We cannot expect the Blessing and Goodness of Almighty God (by whom Kings and Queens Reign) and on which We entirely Rely, to make Our Reign Happy and Prosperous to Our Self and Our People, nor hope for the Divine Assistance to Deliver us from the great and imminent Danger which Our Kingdoms, and the True Protestant Religion, Established among Us, are in this present juncture Threatned with, without a Religious observance of God's Holy Laws: To the Intent therefore that Religion, Honour, and God's Majesties may (according to Our most Heartly Desire) flourish and increase under Our Administration and Government, We have thought fit (by the Advice of Our Privy Council) to give this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discipline and Punish all manner of Vice, Prophaneness and Immorality in all Persons of whatsoever Degree or Quality within this Our Realm, and particularly in such as are employed near Our Royal Person, and that for greater Encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all Occasions, Distinguish Persons of Piety and Virtue by Marks of Our Royal Favour. And we do Expect and Require that all Persons of Honour, or in the Exercise of Authority, will give good Example by their own Virtue and Piety, and their utmost contribution to the Discouraging Persons of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that they being by that means reduced to Shame and Contempt, for their Loose and Evil Actions and Behaviour, may be thereby Encouraged the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices, and that the Displeasure of God Man towards them, may (as far as it is possible) apply what the Laws (probably) cannot altogether prevent. And we do hereby strictly Enjoin and Prohibit all Our Loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality soever, from Playing on the Lords Day at Dice, Cards, or other Game whatsoever, either in Publick or Private Houses, or other Part or Places whatsoever; and do hereby Require and Command them and every of them Decently and Reverently to Attend the Worship of God on every Lords Day, on Pain of Our Highest Displeasure, and of being Proceeded against with the Utmost Rigour that may be by Law. And for the more Effectual Reforming of all such Persons, who by Reason of their Dissolute Lives and Conduits, are a Scandal to Our Kingdom, Our further Purpose is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges, Justices, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it is in their Power, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Profane Swearing and Curling, Lewdness, Impudency of the Ladies Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices; and that they take Care also Effectually to Suppress all Banqueting-Houses, Publick Gaming-Houses and Places, and other Disorderly Houses, as is in Execution the Statute made in the Ninth and Tenth Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Uncle King Charles the Second, Intituled, An Act for the better Observation of the Lords Day, commonly called Sunday, and also an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of our late Dear Brother King William the Third, Intituled, An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing of Blasphemy and Prophaneness, and all other Vices in Force for the Punishing and Suppressing any of the Vices aforesaid; and also to Suppress and Prevent all Gaming whatsoever in Publick or Private Houses on the Lords Day, and likewise that they take Effectual Care to prevent all Persons Keeping Taverns, Chocolate-Houses, Coffee-Houses, or other Publick Houses whatsoever, from Selling Wine, Chocolate, Coffee, Beer, or other Liquors, or receiving or permitting Guests to be or receive in such their Houses in the Time of Divine Service on the Lords Day, and they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our highest Displeasure. And for the more Effectual prosecuting herein, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Justices of the Peace, and Justices of the Peace, to take Care to see that all Persons who shall presume to offend in any of the Vices aforesaid, and any of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in putting the said Laws in Execution, and for that they do at their respective Offices and Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, cause this Our Proclamation to be publicly Read in open Court immediately after the Change is given. And We do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish-Church or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and so often and for as long as shall be

Auditors to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness. And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners, and others, who are Employed in Our Service, by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to avoid all Prophaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by their own Good and Virtuous Lives and Conversations, they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Care and Authority, and likewise take Care of, and Inspect the Behaviour of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid, as they will be Answerable for the ill Consequences of their Neglect herein.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Twenty sixth Day of March, 1702. In the First Year of Our Reign.

By the QUEEN,

## A PROCLAMATION,

For Restraining the Spreading False News, and Printing and Publishing of Irreligious and Seditious Papers and Libels.

ANNE R.

**W** Hereas by an Act of Parliament made in the Third Year of the Reign of King Edward the First, It is Enacted, That none be so hardy to Tell or Publish any False News or Tales, whereby Discord, or Occasion of Discord or Slander may grow between the King and His People, or the Great Men of the Realm, and that he that doth so shall be Taken and Kept in Prison until he hath brought him into Court which was first Author of the Tale. And by another Act made in the Second Year of the Reign of King Richard the Second, It is Declared, That the Devising, Speaking and Telling such False News and Tales, was likely to occasion great Peril and Mischief to, and the quick Subversion and Destruction of this Realm: For the Preventing whereof, It is thereby Enacted, That none be so hardy to Devise, Speak or to Tell any False News, Lies, or other False Things, of Princes, Noblemen, and Officers of the Crown, therein Named, whereby Discord, or any Slander might Arise within this Realm, under the Pain Ordained by the said Statute of King Edward the First. And by another Act made in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of the said King Richard the Second, It is Enacted, That when any such shall be Taken and Imprisoned, and cannot find him by whom the Speech be moved, that he shall be Punished for such his Offence. And whereas the Preventing of the Spreading and Publishing of False News and Tales, and the Writing, Printing and Publishing of Heretical, Blasphemous, Irreligious, Treasonable, Seditious and Scandalous Books, Pamphlets, Libels and Papers, is a Matter which Requires Our Publick Care, and is of great Concernment, especially considering, that by reason of the general Licentiousness of the Times, since an Act for Preventing Abuses in Printing Seditious, Treasonable and Unlawful Books and Pamphlets, and for Regulating of Printing and Printing Presses, made in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Uncle King Charles the Second, and Continued by an Act made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of the late King William and Queen Mary, Expired, many Evil disposed Persons have Written, Printed and Published divers Heretical, Blasphemous, Irreligious, Treasonable, and Seditious Books, Pamphlets, Papers, and many False, Injurious and Scandalous Libels, and do Continue such their Unlawful and Exorbitant Practices, Endeavouring thereby to Traduce and Reproach the Ecclesiastical and Temporal Government of this Kingdom, and the Publick Ministers of the same, and the Proceedings and Members of our Houses of Parliament, and other Our Loving Subjects, to the high Dishonour of Almighty God, and the Endangering the Peace of these Kingdoms, contrary to the said Statutes, and the Common Laws of Our Realm: We therefore (with the Advice of Our Privy Council) Do by this Our Royal Proclamation, Charge and Command all Our Subjects, of what State or Condition soever they be, That they do not henceforth presume, either by Writing, Printing or Speaking, to Tell or Publish any False News or Tales, contrary to the Statutes before mentioned; Nor Write, Print, Publish or Sell, or cause to be Written, Printed, Published or Sold, any Heretical, Blasphemous, Irreligious, Treasonable, or Seditious Books, Papers or Pamphlets, or any Scandalous Libels, Reflecting upon Us, or upon the Ecclesiastical or Temporal Government of this Realm, or any of Our Publick Ministers or Officers, or on the Proceedings of either of Our Houses of Parliament, or any the Members thereof, or upon any other of Our Loving Subjects. And We do hereby further Declare, That We will Proceed with the utmost Severity and Rigour of Law, against all such Persons who shall be Guilty of any the Misdemeanors and Unlawful Practices aforesaid; We being Resolved, as much as in Us lies, to Suppress the said Enormities by a most Strict and Exemplary Punishment of all such Offenders herein, as shall hereafter be Discovred: To the Discoverers whereof We will give all due Encouragement. And We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all and singular Our Judges, Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Justices, Bayliffs, and all other Our Officers and Ministers whatsoever, to take Effectual Care for the speedy Apprehension, Prosecution and Punishment of all such Persons who shall at any time hereafter be found Offenders herein.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Twenty sixth Day of March, 1702. In the First Year of Our Reign.

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