

The London Gazette.

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From Tuesday January 4. to Saturday January 8. 1714.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,
For Dissolving this present Parliament, and
Declaring the Speedy Calling another.

GEORGE R.

W Hereas We have thought fit by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Dissolve this present Parliament which now stands prorogued on Thursday the Thirteenth Day of this Instant January. We do for that End Publish this Our Royal Proclamation and do hereby Dissolve the said Parliament accordingly: And the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Knights Citizens and Burgesses, and Commissioners for Shires and Burghs of the House of Commons, are Discharged from their Meeting on Thursday the said Thirteenth Day of this Instant January. And We being Resolved to Meet Our People, and have their Advice in Parliament, Do hereby make known to all Our Loving Subjects, That we will Speedily Call a New Parliament.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the fifth Day of January, 1714. In the First Year of Our Reign.

God save the KING.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,
For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophanities, and Immorality.

GEORGE 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, Prophanities, Debauchery and Immorality which are so highly Displeasing to God so great a Reproach to our Religion and Government, and (by means of the frequent ill Examples of the Practices thereof) have so Fatal a Tendency to the Corruption of many of Our Loving Subjects otherwise Religiously and Virtuously Disposed and which (if not timely Remedied) 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 Reign) and on which we entirely rely, to make Our Reign Happy and Prosperous to Our Self and Our People, without a Religious Observance

of God's Holy Laws: To the Intent therefore that Religion, Piety and Good Manners 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 Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to Discountenance and Punish all manner of Vice, Prophanities and Immorality in all Persons of whatsoever Degree or Quality within this Our Realm and particularly in such as are Imployed near Our Royal Person; and that for the 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 Place of Authority, will give good Example by their own Virtue and Piety, and to their utmost contribute to the Discountenancing 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 also Enforced the sooner to Reform their ill Habits and Practices, and that the visible Displeasure of Good Men towards them, may (as far as is possible) supply what the Laws (probably) cannot altogether Prevent. And we do hereby strictly enjoyn and Prohibit all Our Loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality soever, from Playing on the Lord's Day at Dice, Cards, or any other Game whatsoever, either in Publick or Private Houses, or other Place 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 Lord's 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 Conversations, are a Scandal to Our Kingdom Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all Our Judges Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it may concern, 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, Prophan Swearing and Cursting, Lawlessness, Prophanation of the Lord's Day, or other Dissolute Immoral or Disorderly Practices; and that they take Care also Effectually to Suppress all Publick Gaming Houses and Places, and other Lewd and Disorderly Houses, and to put in Execution the Statute made in the Nine and twentieth Year of the Reign of the late King Charles the Second Intituled, An Act for the better Observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, and also an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of the late King William the Third Intituled, An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing of Blasphemy and Prophanities, and all other Laws now 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 Lord's 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,