

The London Gazette.

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From *Tuesday* November 8. to *Saturday* November 12. 1715.

A DECLARATION of the ARCH-BISHOP of Canterbury, and the BISHOPS in and near London, testifying their Abhorrence of the present Rebellion; With an Exhortation to the Clergy and People under their Care, to be Zealous in the Discharge of their Duties to His Majesty King GEORGE.

WHEREAS an Unnatural Rebellion has been Raised against Our Lawful and Rightful Sovereign King GEORGE in several Parts of the Kingdom, and is still Threatned in more, We have thought it Incumbent upon Us, out of Our Duty to God, to Our King, to Our Country, and to Our Holy Religion, in this Publick Manner to Declare Our Abhorrence of it, and to Warn both the Clergy and People under Our Charge, of the great Obligations they lie under, upon all these Accounts, to shew a hearty and an open Zeal for the Government in this Conjunction.

The Providence of God has indeed so Wonderfully appeared hitherto, both in timely Discovering the Treason, and in Disappointing Our Enemies of several Advantages they expected, that We have great Reason to trust in Him, that the Event will be to the Confusion of the Wicked Actors in this Rebellion; But however in a Matter of this High Nature, wherein Our Duty and Our dearest Interests are so deeply Concerned, no Endeavours ought to be thought Superfluous, nor Zeal Unnecessary.

We are the more Concerned, that both the Clergy and People of Our Communion should shew themselves hearty Friends to the Government upon this Occasion, to Vindicate the Honour of the Church of *England*, because the chief Hopes of Our Enemies seem to arise from Discontents artificially raised among Us, and because some, who have Valued themselves, and have been too much Valued by others, for a pretended Zeal for the Church, have joyned with Papists in these Wicked Attempts; which as they must ruin the Church if they Succeed, so they cannot well end without great Reproach to it, if the rest

of Us do not Clearly and Heartily Declare our Detestation of such Practices.

We are not surpriz'd, that Papists should rise up against a Government which they would never yet own, and endeavour to set a Person upon the Throne, who will Establish their Religion, and Ruin Ours: (tho' Rebellion is but an ill Return for the Quiet they have enjoy'd) But that profess'd Members of the Church of *England* should Joyn with them in this, and out of Private Discontents, Attempt to set up a Person whom they have so often, and so lately Abjured, is so vile and detestable a thing, as may justly make them Odious both to God and Man; But at the same time to pretend a Zeal for the Church, that is, to joyn with Papists, to set up a Popish Pretender, to Support the Church of *England*, is such an Imposition upon the common Sense of Mankind, that nothing even in Popery it self can be more absurd, and nothing but an Insatiation from God, justly inflicted for Our Sins, can suffer to pass upon the Nation.

How much Blood this may cost, or what Ruin it may bring on Our Country, God only knows; But we think proper to observe to you, that the more clearly and openly We Declare Our selves for the Government, the less it will probably be: And that all those must have a Share in the Guilt of the Innocent Blood that shall be spilt, not only who actually Joyn in the Rebellion, but who do any way Promote it; or even by their Silence at this Juncture, shall give Hopes to the Pretender and his Friends, and just Cause of Jealousie and Suspicion to the Government.

And is this a Time to stand Neuters when all lies at Stake? Or is Popery become so Innocent of late, that it is Indifferent whether a Popish or a Protestant Prince be on the Throne? This We speak to those who have Owned the King's Title, and have Sworn to Maintain it, and are ready to do it again, as Occasion offers; who, We have reason to believe, are so many, that if they are true to their Oaths, the Government (humanly speaking) cannot be in any Danger. And is it not fit for all such Persons to consider seriously what those Oaths are, with which they have bound their Souls? They have not only Abjured the Preten-