

The London Gazette.

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By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION,

For putting in Execution the Laws made against Unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and Riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual Punishing Rioters.

GEORGE R.

Whereas it has been represented, That great Numbers of Wooll-combers and Weavers in several of the Towns and Parishes in this Kingdom, concerned in the Woollen Manufactures, have lately formed themselves into several Clubs and Societies, without any lawful Authority for that purpose, and have presumed, contrary to Law, to act as one or more Corporation or Corporations, and to chuse thereof Masters, Stewards, Supervisors, Assistants, and other Officers, and have used a Common Seal, and do otherwise presume unlawfully to act as Bodies Corporate, and have presumed to make By-Laws or Orders (all which are illegal and void) by which they pretend to determine who has a Right to the Trade, how many Apprentices and Journeymen each Man shall keep at one Time, and whom he shall take, and at what Prices all sorts of Goods shall be wrought, and in what manner, and of what Materials made, and many other things to the like purpose; and have unlawfully conspired and promised to put the said illegal By-Laws or Orders in Execution: And when many of the said Conspirators, by reason of their Masters not submitting to the said pretended By-Laws or Orders, have been destitute of Work and Employment, in order to lay a Necessity on their Employers to comply with their unreasonable Demands, the said Clubs have supplied them with Money till they could again get Employment: And the said unlawful Clubs, by reason of their holding Correspondence throughout several of the Trading Towns in this Kingdom, and of their great Numbers, are become dangerous to the Publick Peace, and thereby, especially in the Counties of Devon and Somerset, many notorious Riots, Tumults and Disorders have been committed, several private Houses broke open, many of our good Subjects assaulted, wounded, and put in Peril of their Lives, great Quantities of Woollen Goods, in part Wrought, have been cut and spoiled, Prisons broke open, and the Offenders, for the Crimes aforesaid, have by Force been set at Liberty, and some of the said Offenders, to screen them from Justice, have been sent away with Tickets and Money from their respective Clubs, to the great Disturbance of the publick Peace, and to the Prejudice and Hindrance of the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom: And where such Tumults and Riots have been, the Offenders have presumed to continue together committing such Riots and Tumults, notwithstanding Proclamation hath been made, requiring them to disperse, pursuant to the Statute in that case made and provided. And whereas by an Act passed in the second Year of the Reign of the late King Edward the Sixth, Intituled, The Bill of Conspiracies of Victuallers and Craftsmen, several severe Penalties and Punishments are enacted and provided for such as shall unlawfully confederate and combine for several of the Purposes herein before mentioned: And by another Statute made in the first Year of our Reign, Intituled, An Act for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing the Rioters, it is enacted, that if any Persons, to the Number of twelve or more, being unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled together, to the Disturbance of the publick Peace, at any Time after the last Day of July, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifteen, and being required or commanded by one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace, or by the Sheriff of the County, or his Under-Sheriff, or by the Mayor, Bailiff or Bailiffs, or other Head Officer or Justice of the Peace of any City or Town-Corporate, where such Assemblies shall be, by Proclamation to be made in the King's Name, in the Form therein directed, to disperse them-

selves, and peaceably to depart to their Habitations, or to their lawful Business, shall, to the Number of twelve or more (notwithstanding such Proclamation made) unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously remain or continue together, by the Space of one Hour after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, that then such continuing together, to the Number of twelve or more, after such Command or Request made by Proclamation, shall be adjudged Felony, without Benefit of Clergy, and the Offenders therein shall be adjudged Felons, and shall suffer Death as in Case of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy. And the demolishing or pulling down, or beginning to demolish or pull down any Building, by Persons unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, to the Disturbance of the publick Peace, is thereby declared to be Felony, without the Benefit of Clergy, and several other Directions are therein given for preventing Riots, and the more speedy and effectual punishing Rioters. And whereas the Commons in Parliament assembled, have, by their Address, humbly besought us, that we would be graciously pleased to issue our Royal Proclamation for putting in Execution the Laws made against unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing Rioters, to which we have graciously condescended; We have therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, and we do hereby strictly prohibit all our loving Subjects from holding Clubs or Assemblies for any of the Purposes beforementioned, or for any other unlawful Purpose whatsoever, and from acting under the same in any Manner, under Pain of our highest Displeasure, and being prosecuted for the same with the utmost Rigour of Law: And we do hereby strictly charge and command all our Judges, Justices of the Peace, and other Magistrates, that they do use their utmost Endeavours to prevent and suppress all such unlawful Clubs, Conspiracies and Combinations, and to put in Execution the said Laws, and all other Laws against such unlawful Clubs and Combinations, and for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing Rioters, and that all our loving Subjects be aiding and assisting therein.

Given at Our Court at James's, the Ninth Day of February 1717, in the Fourth Year of our Reign.

God save the KING.

Copenhagen, Feb. 1. We have Advice; that the General Officers whom the King had ordered to repair to Norway, are arrived at Flastrand and are imbarcking there for that Kingdom. The last Letters from Schwinfund relate, that the Weather was still open there, and that there had not yet been any Action between the Danish and Swedish Armies. We have no Account yet that the Transports which sailed from hence with Meal for Norway, are arrived there: But 'tis known that one of those Transports was driven by Strefs of Weather on the Coast of the Island of Letsoe in the Cattedag, and lost with all her Lading. The young Princess Charlotte who lately fell ill of the Small Pox, is in a fair Way of Recovery. On Sunday last M. Lodberg, Dean of the Cathedral of this City, was consecrated Bishop of the Isle of Fuhnen, the Ceremony being performed in the said Cathedral. Some Swedish Privateers having been cruising of late in the Passage between this Place and Lubeck, about 50 Merchant Ships coming from that Port and from the little Danish Islands, were obli-

ged.