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From Saturday March 14. to Tuelday March 17. 1729.

A T the Court at St. James's the 16th Day of March 1729-30.

PRESENT.

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas there was this Day read at the Board a Report from the Right Hanourable the Lords of the Committee of Gouncil, dated the Twenty Fifth Day of February last, which Report is in the Words following, viz.

OUR Majesty having been pleased " to refer unto this Committee, " several Petitions from the Mer-" Chants, Owners of Ships, and "Traders to Parts beyond the Seas, from the " Port of London; and also from the Out-Ports of this Kingdom, complaining of the heavy Burthen brought on the Trade of "this Kingdom, by the Fees taken upon the frequent Renewal of Mediterranean Passes, and humbly praying to be relieved therein; the Lords of the Committee have in " Obedience to your Majesty's Commands, * taken the faid Petitions into their Confide-" ration, and have been attended by the Petitioners, and heard all that they had to offer in Support of their faid Petitions; and " their Lordihips have thereupon confulted " with the Lords Commissioners of the Ad-" miralty, and the Commissioners of your Ma-" jesty's Customs, and do agree humbly to report to your Majesty; that it appears, that upon a Representation made to your Majesty
by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that leveral Passes of the old Form se might have fallen into the Hands of Fo-

" jesty was pleased, on the 31st of Decem-ber last, for putting a speedy Stop to such indirect Practices, to issue your Royal Pro-" clamation, directing that all Passes of the " old Form, should not continue in Force " longer than Twelve Months, to be computed from the first of March next, except " fuch as had been granted to Ships gone or going remote Voyages; where they can-not be timely furnished with new Passes; and requiring all your Majesty's Subjects, who had any old Passes in their Possession, "to return the same within Twelve Months from the said First of March, to the Admi-" ralty Office of Great-Britain, or to the "Collectors of the Customs at the Out Ports Governors of your Majesty's Plantations, in order to their being cancelled; and that they should furnish themselves with " Passes of a new Form in lieu thereof, for their several Ships and Vessels, according " to the Treaties subsisting between your " Majesty and the Governments on the Coast-" of Barbary, and the Regulations made by "Order of His late Majesty in Council on "the 14th of June 1722, and the Instruc-tions given to the Lords Commissioners of " the Admiralty thereupon.

"The Hardships principally infifted on by the Petitioners were these.

1st. "That the Fee demanded at the Ad-"miralty Office for each Pass is Five and "Twenty Shillings.

"Twenty Shillings.
2d. "That at the Out-Ports, when the
"Officers of the Customs have delivered
"Passes from the Admiralty Office, they have
"taken additional Fees over and above the
"faid Twenty Five Shillings.
2d. "That the like Fee of Twenty Five

"ralty, that leveral Passes of the old Form "Shillings had been taken by the Admiralty might have fallen into the Hands of Form reigners, who under Colour of such Passes, "ficers of the Customs at the Out-Ports, upmight carry on their Trade, to the Prejusion on the renewing of any such Passes, although dice of your Majesty's Subjects; your Ma-" no Alteration had been made in the Pro-