

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday April 2. to Tuesday April 5. 1743.

Whitehall, March 31, 1743.

The Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council have this Day, by his Majesty's Command, wrote the following Letter to the Custodes Rotulorum of all the Counties in England and Wales; and also to the Mayors of Cities and Towns, being Counties within themselves.

AFTER our very hearty Commendations to your Lordship. Whereas by an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of His Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for laying a Duty upon the Retailers of Spirituous Liquors, and for Licencing the Retailers thereof;" all Persons are prohibited to sell any Spirituous Liquors, or Strong Waters about the Streets, Highways, or the Fields, in any Wheelbarrow or Basket, or on the Water, or any Stall, Bulk, or Shed, under the Penalty of Ten Pounds for each Offence; and Power is thereby given to one or more Justices of the Peace, to convict such Offender in the Manner therein mentioned, and on Neglect to pay it, to commit him or her to the House of Correction for two Months. And whereas by another Act made in the present Session of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for Repealing certain Duties on Spirituous Liquors, and on Licences for Retailing the same; and for laying other Duties on Spirituous Liquors, and on Licences to retail the said Liquors", all Persons are prohibited to sell by Retail Spirituous Liquors and Strong Waters, unless they shall be Licenced thereto in the Manner therein directed, under the Penalty of Ten Pounds for every Offence, to be paid on Conviction before one or more Justices of the Peace, and on Non-Payment, of being committed to the House of Correction for Two Months. And whereas it is thereby provided and enacted, that no Licence shall be granted to any but to such Persons as keep Taverns, Victualling-houses, Inns, Coffee-houses or Alehouses, nor shall any such be enabled to sell by Retail Spirituous Liquors or Strong Waters, unless they shall first have a Licence also to sell Ale or Spirituous Liquors from two or more Justices. And whereas by one Act of Parliament made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of King James the First, intituled, "An Act for Repressing the odious and loathsome Sin of Drunkennes;" And by one other Act in the Twenty First Year of his Reign, intituled, "An Act for the better Repressing of Drunken-

ness, and Restraining the inordinate Haunting of Inns, Ale-houses, and other Victualling-Houses." And by other Acts divers Penalties are inflicted on Persons guilty of the Crime of Drunkennes, or who sit tippling in Ale-houses contrary to Law, and Power is thereby given to the Justices of the Peace to carry the said Laws into Execution. And whereas it hath been represented to his Majesty, that notwithstanding the said Act of the Ninth of his Majesty, and the said Acts made against Drunkennes and Tippling, the Practice of excessive drinking Spirituous Liquors has not been prevented, and divers disorderly and irregular Persons have taken upon themselves to sell the same by Retail, contrary to the said Act of the Ninth of his Majesty, and do still continue the same; His Majesty, taking the same into his serious Consideration, and being desirous to put a Stop as much as in him lyeth to a Custom so destructive of the Health, Morals and Industry of his Subjects, and to the Peace of his Kingdom; and being sensible that the faithful and diligent Execution of the said Laws would effectually remedy the said Evil: We therefore, in his Majesty's Name, and by his express Commands, pray and require your Lordship to recommend it to, and press it in the strongest Manner upon the Justices of the Peace within the County whereof your Lordship is Custos Rotulorum, that they use their utmost Endeavours to carry all the said Laws into Execution, and more especially that they take particular Care not to grant Licences for selling Ale or Spirituous Liquors, to any but such as are strictly qualified according to Law, and as are not known to be guilty of any disorderly Practices, or likely to suffer them in their Houses, and that they do call before them the High Constables and Petty Constables, and all other Officers under their Direction, and give them the strictest Orders not to suffer any Persons to sell Spirituous Liquors in the Streets or other prohibited Places, and to be very industrious in discovering, apprehending, and bringing to Punishment all Persons guilty of the said Vice of Drunkennes and other Offences prohibited by the said Laws. And so not doubting of your ready Compliance herewith, We bid your Lordship very heartily farewell. From the Council Chamber at Whitehall, the 31st Day of March, 1743.

[Price Two-pence.]

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