

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday December 31. to Tuesday January 3. 1743.

The following is a Translation of an Edict published by the King of Sweden for preventing the Plague from being brought into his Dominions.

WE Frederick, by the Grace of God, King of Sweden, of the Goths and Vandals, &c. &c. Landgrave of Hesse, &c. &c. do make known, That whereas we have been informed that a contagious Distemper hath raged in Sicily, and particularly in the City of Messina, and that it hath since extended itself to the Terra Firma of Italy and Africa, and that other Powers in Europe have begun to take the proper and usual Precautions to prevent the Infection, which might be communicated to their respective Dominions by the Arrival of any Vessels coming from such infected Countries, or other dangerous and suspected Places; We having equally at Heart to take all necessary Measures for securing our Kingdom, and the Limits of it, against this contagious and deadly Distemper, have most graciously, by these our Letters Patents, which are to be in Force till further Order, settled the following Rules to be observed with regard to the Commerce and Navigation between foreign Countries and Sweden, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, to wit,

I. That no Vessel or Ships coming directly or indirectly from Naples and Sicily, or other Countries and Places, which upon Information to us hereafter given, we may hear to have been infected by this Distemper, be for the Space of Six Months allowed to enter into any of our Ports on Penalty of the Ship and Cargo being burnt, and the Crew, Owners, and Factors, and all those who have given Orders for sending such Vessel to the Ports in Sweden, or any other of these Provinces, or who have had Knowledge thereof directly or indirectly, being punished with Death, if such Persons can be seized here: The same Law to be observed with regard to any Ship or Vessel, which on Account of the Plague, hath been sent back from the Ports of any other Nation, and which may nevertheless endeavour to enter into Sweden, or any of the Provinces thereunto belonging.

II. As soon as the Pilots perceive any Vessel from any Foreign Country approaching, they are to go out to Sea as far as possible to meet it,

and having come up to it, before they enter therein, they are to inform themselves by haling it, whether the Vessel comes from the Mediterranean, and in particular from Naples, or Sicily, or other infected Countries, the Pilots being commanded, in case the Vessel comes from any of the aforesaid infected Places, to give Notice to the Captain to put out to Sea again immediately without entering into any of the Ports in Sweden, or of the Provinces belonging thereunto, on Penalty of the Ship and Cargo being burnt, and the Captain and the Crew being punished with Death. But if the Captain affirms that he comes from other Parts, from whence no Contagion is to be feared, and if the Pilots shall be well assured thereof, he shall be at Liberty to pursue his Voyage without any Molestation.

At his Arrival near the Custom House, or at his first entry into the Ports, and after the Captain with his Vessel, according to the Rules of Navigation, hath cast Anchor at a good Distance from the Shore, and hath been searched, he is to be conducted to the Custom House for farther Examination touching his Cargo, and Inspection whether he do not bring any Effects or Merchandizes which by this Edict are prohibited, or be not destitute of the Certificates hereby required and ordered; In which first Case, the Captain is immediately to return on board, and the Vessel to be carried farther out, and particular Care to be taken that no one enter, or go out of it. That done, the Custom House Chamber is without Delay to inform the Governor of the Place, and He our Council of Commerce, thereof, and then wait for Directions from the said Council how to proceed with regard to such a Vessel according to this our Edict. But in the last Case, if only the Certificates hereby required and ordered for permitted Merchandizes, be wanting, the respective Judges of the Place shall immediately examine the Affair, and judge of it in consequence of this our gracious Ordonnance, and shall also make their Report to the Council of Commerce upon the Circumstances thereof. But all the Vessels bound for Stockholm and Geste, shall be examined in the Manner before mentioned by the Inspectors at Dablaro, Sandhamn, Waxholm, and Kulboda; those for Nykiaping by the Custom House Officers at Hasele; those for Nor and Suder-coping by the Officers at Barefund; for West-

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(Price Two-pence,)

