



A Proclamation for a generall Fast throughout this Realme of England.



He fresh memory of the late fearefull visitation of the Plague, as in many other places and parts of this Realme, so especially in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, and places adiacent, and the spreading thereof in many parts of this Kingdome at this time, ought to moue vs to consider, that it was, and is the immediate hand of God for the sinnes of this Land, so to visite and correct his people; And agame, the contemplation of the infinite goodnesse of God, so vnerpectedly to heale this great and populous Citie (the seate of this Empire) ought to draw vs to a due and thankfull acknowledgement of so great a deliuerance: The remembrance of the scarcitie and famine lately threathned vnto vs in all the borders of this Land, ought to humble vs. And the blessing of God vpon the fruits of the earth in the time of our greatest distresse, ought to stirre vp our thankfulness vnto that diuine Maiesty, who was the giuer of these blessings: The present estate of his Maiesties Dominions, and of his friends and Allies imbarcked in a warre, with a potent and vigilant enemy, setting vs in an open Hostilitie abroad, and threathning vs with a powerfull inuasion at home, ought to perswade vs, not onely to a timely preparation for all things necessary for a defensue warre, but also to looke vp to Him, whose prouidence gouernes, and whose power ruleth all things vpon earth: And our former deliuerances in like distresses, ought to raise our thoughts, not to neglect the ordinary meanes, and yet to trust in him onely who is the Lord of hostes, and who alone can deliuer in times of danger: These Pious and Religious considerations haue so wrought in the Princely heart of the Kings most excellent Maiesty, That he hath not onely had recourse to that great and Diuine Maiesty, who is the King of kings, in his priuate deuotions, to imploze his mercie and fauour to himselfe and his people; But according to the example of all good Kings in former ages in the times of common calamities, which equally concerne both Prince and people, to command a solemne, a generall, and a publike Fast throughout all this whole Land, wherein the whole Kingdome (as one man) may present to God their hearty and vnfained thanks for his benefits already receiued, and may poure out their supplications with strong cryes vnto Him, to send a blessing vpon our endeauours, and to diuert those punishments from vs, which the sinnes of this Land haue worthily deserued.

To this purpose, His most Excellent Maiestie, (moued therunto, the rather by the good inclination of the Commons House of Parliament, lately assembled, who being the representative Body of this Realme, and best knowing the necessities of them all, did intimate their desire thereof) hath consulted with His reuerend Bishops, and resolved vpon a graue and religious forme of solemnizing thereof, which His Royall Pleasure he doth hereby publish and declare to all His louing Subjects, And doth straitly charge and command, That on Wednesday next, being the fift day of July, this Fast be religiously and solemnly obserued and celebrated in the Cities of London and Westminster, and places adiacent, wherein His Maiestie in His Royall person, and with His owne family and Royall household, will giue an example to the rest of His people. And that on that day moneth, being the second of August, the like be kept and duly obserued, thoro:out the rest of this whole Realme of England and Dominion of Wales. And for the more orderly solemnizing thereof without confusion, His Maiestie, by the aduice of His Reuerend Bishops, hath directed to be Composed, Printed, and Published, the forme of such Prayers and publike Exhortations, as he thinketh fit to be vsed in all Churches and places at these publike meetings. And hee hath giuen charge to His Bishops to disperse the same thoro:out His whole Kingdome. All which, His Maiestie doth expressly charge and command, shall be reuerently and deuoutly performed by all His louing Subjects, as they tender the fauour of Almighty God, and would auoide his iust indignation against this Land; and vpon paine of such punishments, as His Maiestie can iustly inflict vpon all such, as shall contemne, or neglect to religiously a worke.

Given at His Maiesties Court at White-Hall, the thirtieth day of Iune, in the second yeere of His Maiesties Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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