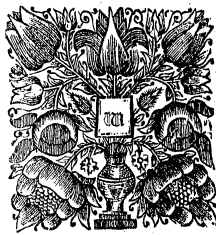




By the King.

A PROCLAMATION For a General Fast.

CHARLES R.



Whereas the Lords Spirituall and Temporall, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, have by their Addresse to Us, made known unto Us, That they are deeply sensible of the sad and calamitous Condition of this Our Kingdom, occasioned by the Impious and horrid Conspiracies of a Popish Party, who have not only plotted and intended the Destruction of Our Royal Person, but the total Subversion of the Government and true Religion established amongst us, and that the same detestable Machinations are still obstinately prosecuted by them, as well by fomenting Divisions amongst Our Loyal Protestant Subjects, as all other the most Wicked Contrivances, notwithstanding the many Discoveries thereof by Gods great Mercy and wonderful Providence lately brought to light. All which dreadful Judgments are now impending over us most deservedly for our many and grievous Sins, and cannot otherwise in humane reason be prevented, but by the particular Blessing of God upon the Consultations and Endeavours of Our great Council now Assembled in Parliament; have most humbly besought Us that a day may be most Solemnly set apart, wherein Our Self and all Our Loyal Subjects may by fasting and Prayer endeavour a reconciliation with Almighty God, and with humble and penitent hearts implore him by his Power and Goodness, to divert those Judgments, and defeat the Wicked Counsels and Devices of Our Enemies, to Unite the hearts of Our Loyal Protestant Subjects, and to continue his Mercy and the Light of the Gospel to Us and our Posterities, and more especially to bestow his abundant Blessings on our Self and this present Parliament, that our Consultations and Endeavours may produce Honour, Safety and Prosperity to Our Self and Our People: We have to this their humble Request most readily inclined, and do by this Our Royal Proclamation Command a General and Publick Fast to be kept throughout this whole Kingdom, in such manner as is hereafter directed and prescribed, that so both We and Our People may tend up Our Prayers and Supplications to Almighty God, to, and for the purposes aforesaid. And to the end that to Religious an Exercise may be performed at one and the same time, We do hereby Publish and Declare to all Our Loving Subjects, and do strictly Charge and Command, That on Wednesday, being the Two and twentieth day of December instant, this Fast shall be religiously kept and celebrated throughout Our Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed. And that the same may be performed with all Decency and Uniformity, We, by the Advice of Our Reverend Bishops, have Directed to be Composed, Printed and Published, such a Form of Divine Service as We thought fit to be used in all Churches and Places at the time aforesaid, and have given Charge to Our Bishops to Disperse the same accordingly. All which We do hereby expressly Charge and Command shall be Reverently and Decently observed by all Our Loving Subjects, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and would avoid his Wrath and Judignation against this Land, and upon pain of undergoing such Punishments as We may justly inflict upon all such as shall contemn or neglect to Religious a Duty.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Second day of December, 1680. In the Two and thirtieth year of Our Reign.

God save the King.

L O N D O N,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill, Thomas Newcomb,* and *Henry Hills,*
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1680. 4 Decemb.

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