



By His EXCELLENCY

JONATHAN BELCHER Esq;

Captain-General and Governour in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province of the
Massachusetts-Bay in New-England.

A PROCLAMATION

For preventing Disorders on the LORD'S-DAY.



ORASMUCH as the strict Observation of the *Lords-Day* is a great and necessary Duty of the *Christian Religion*; and it has been the laudable Care and Concern of the Government of this Province, from their first Settlement, to impress and maintain in the Minds of the People a due Reverence of this Holy Institution, and from time to time to make good and wholesome Laws and Ordinances for enforcing Obedience to the Divine Authority therein, and for preventing and punishing all Prophanations of this Holy Day; Notwithstanding which, among other growing Disorders, the bold and open Violation of the Laws relating to the Sabbath is none of the least; which, as it manifests a great decay of Religion among us, so it threatens us with the increase of all Impiety and Immorality, which will further expose this People to the Righteous Judgments of GOD, unless by our speedy Repentance and Reformation the Anger of GOD be averted from us.

I have therefore thought fit, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, to issue forth this Proclamation, hereby Commanding all persons of what Rank and Degree soever to give due Obedience to the good Laws of the Province, for the better Observation and Keeping of the *Lords-Day*; hereby also requiring all Judges, Justices of the Peace, Grand-Jurors, Tithing-Men, Constables, and all other Officers, whom it may concern, to be diligent and faithful, according to their respective Trusts, in the Execution of the said Laws, and that there be no Relaxation thereof, especially upon the more bold and daring Transgressors, but that the said Officers use their utmost Endeavours for the detecting and punishing all Offences against the same; and especially, that the Courts of General Sessions of the Peace in the several Counties, and others concerned, be very circumspect in their granting of Licences for the keeping of Inns, Taverns and other Houses of Entertainment, or for Retailing Strong Drink, that so no persons may be admitted to such Employments, but those that are of sober Life, and prudent and regular in their Conduct; and that they be careful not to renew the Licences of such persons against whom any just Complaint lies for entertaining in their Houses lewd and disorderly people or any other whatsoever, or for selling Strong Drink, at such Seasons as are prohibited in the said Acts for the better Observation and Keeping of the *Lords-Day*. And it is justly expected of all Parents and Masters of Families, that they effectually restrain their Children and Servants from being unnecessarily abroad on the *Lords-Day*, and on the Evenings before and after it, and from using any Recreations or unnecessary Labours thereon; and to take Care that they attend the publick Worship of GOD. And it is also earnestly recommended to all persons that are distinguished by their Circumstances of Life, or by a more liberal and ingenious Education, that they would, by their good Example and other Ways, draw others into the practice of this good and necessary Duty, and to use their best Endeavours that the Lawless and Dissolute may be discountenanced, detected and punished; that so by a happy Agreement and Combination of all good Men and true Lovers of their Country, a Blessed Reformation in this and all other parts of Religion may be promoted, and by that means, under the present threatening Aspects of Providence, this People may have a safe Shelter in the Divine Protection, and GOD even our GOD may bless us, and prosper us in all our Interests and Undertakings. And the Justices of the Court of Assize and Justices of the Peace, in the several Counties, are hereby directed to cause this Proclamation to be publickly read at the several Courts of Assize, and Courts of General Sessions of the Peace, after the Proclamation for the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Prophanes and Immorality: And it is also recommended to the Ministers of the Gospel within this Province, that soon after they shall receive this Proclamation they read it publickly in their respective Assemblies before the End of Divine Worship on the *LORD'S-DAY*:

Given in the Chamber in Boston, the Twenty-fifth Day of August 1739. And in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord
GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of His Excellency the Governour,
with the Advice of the Council,

J. BELCHER.

J. Willard, Secr.

GOD save the KING.