



By the King.

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



He Kings most Excellent MAIESTIE, taking into His most pious and Princely consideration, the present estate of the affaires of Christendome, and the deplorable condition of those who professe the true Reformed Religion, together with Us, and the great and unspeakable mercie and blessing of Almighty God vnto, and vpon His Maiestie and this Kingdome, that amidst the many miseries, which the true professors of the Religion haue of late yeeres suffered in forreine parts. Wee of this Kingdome haue enioyed a happy peace at home, & that peace, which aboue all other is of most esteeme, the peace of conscience. And His Maiestie, hauing at this time assembled His High Court of Parliament, in that great Counsell (which is the representatiue body of the whole Kingdome) to consult, debate, and conclude of those weighty and important matters which concerne the glory of God, the honour of the King, the safety of His Kingdomes, and the comfort and support of His Friends and Allies, Hee being thereto moued at this time, by the toyne petition of His Lords and Commons in Parliament, whereto, out of His owne Religious disposition, Hee was easily inclined, hath resolued according to the examples of all good Kings in former ages, to command a generall and publique Fast to bee solemnized throughout this whole Kingdome; That so, although Hee is resolued to neglect no ordinary meanes, which may conduce to the iust defence of Himselfe, His people, and His Friends and Allies, yet not making His Reliance thereon, His Maiestie, both in His private deuotions, doth dayly lift by His heart and hands to God Almighty, the King of Kings, and doth direct, that now in publique, both Hee and His whole people, as one man, may humble themselues by fasting and prayer before His Footstoolle, who is able and ready to deliuer those (in his owne good time) who faithfully call vpon him; And therefore His Maiestie, to prayse God for his mercies vpon this Land, and other His Maiesties Dominions, and to implore His gracious fauour vnto, and vpon the distressed estate of those of the Religion in forreine parts, and his blessing vpon the counsels of this present Parliament, doth hereby commaund a generall and publique Fast to bee held, and solemnized throughout this whole Land, in such manner as hereafter is prescribed.

To this purpose his most Excellent Maiestie hath consulted With his Reuerend Bishops, and to the end so religious an exercise may bee performed with all decency and vniformitie, his Maiestie hath resolved vpon a graue and religious forme of solemnizing thereof: which his Royall pleasure hee doth hereby publish and declare to all his louing Subjects, and doth straitly charge and command, That on Wednesday next, being the eighteenth day of February, this Fast bee religiously and solemnly obserued and celebrated in the Cities of London and Westminster, Borough of South-warke, and other 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 the twentieth day of the moneth of March, the like bee kept and duely obserued throughout the rest of this whole Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales. And for the better solemnizing thereof, without confusion, his Maiestie, by the aduice of his Reuerend Bishops, hath directed to bee composed, printed, and published the forme of such Prayers and publike Exhortations, as hee thinketh fit to be vsed in all Churches and places at these publike meetings: And hee hath giuen charge to his Bishops, to procure so many Bookes, and disperse the same throughout his whole Kingdome, in such manner, that the Minister and Clerke of euery Parish may in conuenient time be furnished with those Bookes. And his Maiestie, for the more deuout performance of so religious an exercise, doth command, that on that day the publike Markets be forborne in the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Suburbes thereof, and the Borough of South-warke. All which his Maiestie doth expresse charge and command, shall bee reuerently and deuoutly performed by all his louing Subjects, as they tender the fauour of Almighty God, and would auoid 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 so religious a worke.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, The fourteenth day of February, in the fourth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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