



*High Court of Justice by
Clerk of the Court*

By the King.

A Proclamation for a generall Fast to be Weekly observed thorowout the Realme of England.



He heauie Iudgement of God in His present Visitation of the Cities of London, Westminster, and diuers other parts of the Kingdome at this time with the Pestilence, ought to moue vs to acknowledge the immediate hand of God therein, for the sinnes of this Land, so to afflict and correct His people: And His Maiestie hauing taken into His Religious care, that in common Calamities the speciall meanes to remoue the Euill, is by serious humiliation to imploze the grace and fauour of that Supreme offended Maiestie, who hath smitten the Land, and can

only heale it; hath resolued, according to the example of pious Kings in former ages, and in like cases, to command Generall and Publike Fasts to be held through the whole Realme, in such manner as is herein directed. And to the end so Religious an Exercise may be performed with all Decencie and Uniformitie; His most Excellent Maiestie hath, with the aduice of His Reuerend Bishops, resolued vpon a graue and Religious Forme of Solemnizing thereof.

And this His Royall Pleasure he doth hereby Publish and Declare to all His louing Subjects, and doth straitely Charge and Command, that this Fast be Religiously and Solemnely observed and Celebrated Weekly, from the time of the Publishing of this Proclamation, vpon every Wednesday, thoroout the whole Kingdome, during the Continuance of the present Infection: with this limitation neuertheless, that in the Citie of London and Suburbs thereof, and in all other Cities, Townes, and places, where the Infection now is, or hereafter shall happen to be, and during the continuance of the Contagion in any of those places, the

said Fasts shall be no otherwise Celebrated in publike in such severall Parish Churches, then by a Deuout and Religious vse of the Prayers in the Printed Booke, now appointed 'o be set forth. And that no Minister shall in London, or any other place infected, detaine their assemblies any longer time together to heare either Sermons or other Diuine Seruice, because such detaining of the people so long together, may proue dangerous to the further increase of the Sicknesse. And further, that all other Duties of Prayer and Humiliation requisite, to the keeping of such a Fast, be obserued by euery person in their priuate Families, at home: But in all Cities, Towns, and other places not infected, His Maiestie requireth that the said Fast be publikely solemnized, not onely by reading the said Booke, but by the vse of Sermons or Homilies, also as upon like Occasions hath bene commanded and obserued; the same Sermons not exceeding the space of an houre. And for the more orderly solemnizing thereof, without confusion, His Maiestie, by the aduice of His Reuerend Bishops, hath directed that the Booke of Prayers formerly set forth by Authority, shall be reprinted and published, which, with the publike Exhortation therein, His Maiestie thinketh fit, and commands to be vsed in all Churches and places at these publike meetings: And he hath giuen charge to His Bishops to disperse the same thoro'out this whole Kingdome, so farre as in these sickly times they may be able. All which His Maiestie doth expresse charge and command, shall be Reuerently and Deuoutly performed by all His loving 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 the Court at *New-Market* the eighteenth day of October, in the twelfth yeere of Our Reigne.

✠ God saue the King. ✠



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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie: And by the
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