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80. BY THE KING.

*A Proclamation for a Generall Fast to be held throughout this Kingdome on the second Friday in every Moneth.*



When a generall Fast was first propounded unto Us, in contemplation of the miseries of Our Kingdome of *Ireland*, We readily gave Our Consent unto it, and in Our Court, and in Our Person have duely observed it, as a Religious duty, fit to be exercised in a time of common Calamity. But when we have seen what ill use hath been made of those publique meetings under the pretence of Religion, in the Pulpits, and Prayers and sermons of many seditious Lecturers to stirre up and continue the Rebellion raised against Us within this Kingdome; And that those, who first moved and seemed to affect the relief of Our distressed Subjects of *Ireland*, have deserted the care thereof, and diverted the Means ordained for the support and preservation of that Kingdome, to the destruction of Us and of this Kingdome of *England*, We have thought it fit to Command, That such an Hypocriticall Fast, to the dishonour of God, and the slander of true Religion, be no longer continued and countenanced by Our Authority, which hath been too long continued already, to such false and Trayterous ends. And yet we being desirous (as by Our duty to Almighty God We are bound) by all possible meansto expresse Our own Humiliation, and the Humiliation of Our People, for Our own finnes and the finnes of this Nation, (as We have great cause) are resolved to continue a Monthly Fast, but not on the day formerly appoynted and so much abused by those who are in Rebellion against Us, they using it as a Principall Engine to work their own designs. We doe therefore hereby Command, That from henceforth no Fasts, or publike Meetings under that name be held on the last Wednesday of the Moneth in any part of this Our Kingdome of *England*, as for many Moneths it hath been, nor upon any other day, then as hereby is appoynted by Us, which we are well assured, none of Our Subjects may or ought to doe without, much lesse against Our Command: but instead thereof We do expressly Charge and Command, That in all Churches and Chappels in all the parts of this Our Kingdome of *England* and Dominion of *Wales*, there be a solemne Fast held, and Religiously observed on the second Friday in every Moneth, with publike Prayers to God, and Preaching in all places where it may be had, when and where we may all both Prince and People, as one man, earnestly powre out our Prayers to God, for the diverting of his heavy judgements from Us, for continuing of his gracious Protection over Us and this Nation, for the avoyding of all Malignant practices against Us, and the Setling and Establishing of a happy Peace amongst Us. And to the end that with one Heart and one Voyce We may performe so Religious an Exercise, We have caused devout formes of Prayers to be Composed and Printed, and intend to disperse them into all the parts of this Our Kingdome, and doe Command that they be used in all Churches and Chappels at these solemne and publique Meetings. And if thus We shall heartily and unfainedly apply Our selves to Our good God and gracious Father, whom We have offended, and praye him for his many and even Miraculous deliverances past, we may with Comfort and Confidence hope that he will in mercy look upon Us, and be reconciled unto Us. Given at Our Court at Oxford, this fifth day of October, in the Nineteenth year of Our Reigne.

*God save the King.*