

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday May 24, to Saturday May 28, 1763.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION.

For Pardoning and Discharging Soldiers now in Custody for Desertion.

GEORGE R.

Whereas divers Soldiers, duly enlisted, or in Pay as Soldiers, in certain Regiments and Military Corps, which have been since disbanded or disembodied, and in other Regiments or Corps now subsisting, have deserted Our Service, and thereby incurred the Penalties respectively inflicted for such Offence, by several Acts of Parliament passed for punishing Mutiny and Desertion: And whereas many of the said Deserters have been apprehended at various Times, and committed for safe Custody to the several Goals or Prisons belonging to the Counties, Towns, or Places, where such Deserters have been found or apprehended, to the End that they might be proceeded against according to Law; the Names of which Deserters have been, from Time to Time, transmitted to our Secretary at War for the Time being, pursuant to the Provisions of such Acts of Parliament made for Punishing Mutiny and Desertion as aforesaid: And whereas We are graciously disposed to extend Our Royal Mercy to the said Offenders, who may be hereafter useful to their Country in following their honest and lawful Occupations, in Case they are enabled thereto, by receiving Our free Pardon; and being discharged out of Custody in Consequence thereof; We have therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy-Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and We do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, pardon and remit all and every such Offence and Offences of Desertion, from any such Regiments or Military Corps, committed by any Person or Persons now in Custody as aforesaid: And We do also release and discharge the said Offenders from all Prosecutions, Imprisonments, and Penalties, commenced or incurred, for, or by reason of any such Offence or Offences: And We do hereby, by and with the Advice of Our said Privy-Council, declare Our farther Pleasure, and do will and require all and every Goal, House of Correction, or Prison, where any such Deserter or Deserters is or are in Custody, to discharge him or them forthwith, without Fee or Reward; upon receiving a Certificate or Certificates under the Hand of Our Secretary at War for the Time being, that the Name or Names of such Deserter or Deserters, do appear to him to have been transmitted to the War Office, pursuant to the Provisions of any of the said Acts. And We hereby further Charge and Command every such Goaler or Keeper, within the Space of Seven Days after receiving any such Certificate as aforesaid, to make a Return to Our Secretary at War for the Time being, of what such Goaler

or Keeper shall have done in Pursuance of such Certificate, and of this Our Royal Proclamation.—Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to discharge any Person or Persons so in Custody for any such Offence of Desertion, from any Crime, Cause, or Matter, for which he or they shall have been lawfully committed, or detained in the Custody of any such Goaler or Keeper, other than such Offence or Offences of Desertion.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 20th Day of May, 1763, in the Third Year of Our Reign.

G O D Save the K I N G.

St. James's, May 28.

The following Address of the Bishop, the Dean and Chapter, the Chancellor, and the Rest of the Clergy of the Church and Diocese of Gloucester, has been presented to His Majesty by the Rev. Dr. Gally, Senior Prebendary, being introduced by the Lord of His Majesty's Bed-Chamber in Waiting: Which Address His Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's dutiful and faithful Subjects, the Bishop, the Dean and Chapter, the Chancellor, and the Rest of the Clergy of the Church and Diocese of Gloucester, after having offered up our grateful Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving to the great Author of all human Blessings, as your own Piety directed, beg Leave to approach your Royal Presence, with our humble Congratulations on the Success of your Majesty's humane and princely Labours in procuring Peace for Europe, when you had effectually vindicated the Injults on your Imperial Crown, by a large Accession to the British Empire of ample and fruitful Dominions, solemnly yielded up to your victorious Arms by the Powers offending.

To see so desirable an End put to the Desolations of War and Bloodshed (that Opprobrium of Christian Profession) cannot but fill the Hearts of us, the Messengers and Ministers of Peace, with the warmest Gratitude towards your Royal Person for this inestimable Blessing.

While the other Part of your Majesty's happy and loyal Subjects are employed in generous and patriotic Plans for improving and enobling these vast Acquisitions by Civil Arts, Agriculture, and Commerce; we, the Servants of Religion, please ourselves in the sublimer Views of extending the Kingdom of Christ through boundless Regions of unknown, and unnamed Barbarians; Regions, which the everlasting Gospel, in its Truth and Purity, never yet enlightened.

And under the Auspices of a Monarch, the Friend