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Westminster, May 11, 1768.

THIS Day the Two Houses of Parliament having again met, the Commons presented to the Lords Commissioners the Right Honourable Sir John Cust, Bart. whom they had chosen to be their Speaker; and the Lords Commissioners having, in His Majesty's Name, approved their Choice, the Lord Chancellor made the following Speech to both Houses.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

IN Pursuance of the Authority given Us by His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal, amongst other Things, to declare the Causes of your present Meeting, We are, by the King's Command, to acquaint you, that His Majesty has not called you together at this unusual Season of the Year, in order to lay before you any Matters of general Business, but merely to give you an Opportunity of dispatching certain Parliamentary Proceedings, which His Majesty's Desire of providing, at all Events, for the Welfare and Security of His good Subjects, makes Him wish to see completed as soon as possible, and with that Dispatch which the Publick Convenience as well as your own require.

His Majesty, at the same Time, has commanded Us to assure you of His perfect Confidence in this Parliament; and that He has the strongest Reason to expect every Thing from their Advice and Assistance, that Loyalty, Wisdom, and Zeal for the Publick Good, can dictate or suggest.

By the KING,

A PROCLAMATION,

For suppressing Riots, Tumults, and unlawful Assemblies.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS it has been represented unto Us, That divers dissolute and disorderly Persons have, of late, frequently assembled themselves together in a riotous and unlawful Manner, to the Disturbance of the Publick Peace; and, particularly, that large Bodies of Seamen, consisting of several Thousands, have assembled tumultuously upon the River Thames; and, under a Pretence of the Insufficiency of the Wages allowed by the Merchants and others, have, in the most daring Manner, taken Possession, by Violence, of several outward-bound Ships ready to sail, and by unbending the Sails, and striking the Yards and Topmasts, have stopped them in the Prosecution of their Voyages; and that these Acts of Violence have been accompanied with Threats of still greater Outrages, which have spread Terror and Alarm among those most likely to be immediately affected thereby: And it has been further represented to Us, That some of the said dissolute and disorderly Persons have audaciously attempted to deter and intimidate the Civil Magistrates from

doing their Duty: We, having taken the same into Our serious Consideration, and being duly sensible of the mischievous Consequences that may ensue from the Continuance or Repetition of such Disorders, have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation; hereby strictly requiring and commanding the Lord Mayor and other the Justices of the Peace of Our City of London, and also the Justices of the Peace of Our City and Liberties of Westminster and Borough of Southwark, and of Our Counties of Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent, and all other Our Peace Officers, That they do severally use their utmost Endeavours, by every legal Means in their Power, effectually to prevent and suppress all Riots, Tumults, and unlawful Assemblies; and to that End to put in due Execution the Laws and Statutes now in Force for preventing, suppressing, and punishing the same; and that all Our loving Subjects be aiding and assisting therein: And we do further graciously declare, That the said Magistrates, and all others acting in Obedience to this Our Command, may rely on Our Royal Protection and Support in so doing.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 11th Day of May 1768, in the Eighth Year of Our Reign.

G O D Save the KING.

The humble Address of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, presented to His Majesty on Saturday the Thirteenth Day of May, 1768.

Die Sabbati 14^o Maii, 1768.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to return Your Majesty our most hearty Thanks for that gracious and paternal Attention to the Welfare of your People, which has induced Your Majesty, at this Time, to interpose Your own more immediate Authority for putting an End to that dangerous Disturbance of the publick Peace, those outrageous Acts of Violence to the Prosperity of Your Majesty's Subjects, and that most audacious Defiance of the Authority of the Civil Magistrates, which have of late prevailed to so alarming a Degree in and near this great Metropolis.

You Majesty's express Command, signified by your Royal Proclamation, that all the Laws, for preventing, suppressing, and punishing, all Riots, Tumults, and unlawful Assemblies, be put into immediate Execution, will, we hope, effectually prevent the Continuance or Repetition of these Disorders.

But should any of Your Majesty's Subjects continue so lost to all Sense of their own true Interest,