

# The London Gazette.

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Whitehall, December 23.

**T**HE following Petition of the President and Council, and of the Assembly of the Island of Antigua, having been transmitted to the Right Honourable the Earl of Hillsborough, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, has by him been presented to His Majesty.

To the KING's most Excellent MAJESTY.

**M**AY it please Your most Excellent Majesty to permit us, the Members of Your Majesty's Council, and the Representatives in the General Assembly, of Your Majesty's Island of ANTIGUA, to become Petitioners to Your Majesty, and to transmit, from this remote Part of Your Dominions, and bring before Your Royal Eye the present Distresses of many of Your Majesty's most loyal and faithful Subjects in this Island: Nor should we presume to intrude on Your Majesty with so painful a Recital, were we not encouraged thereto by the well-known amiable Benevolence of Your Royal Disposition. This it is which gives us Reason to hope, that, whatever Pain Your Majesty feels in viewing the Miseries of Your faithful Subjects, Your Humanity still thinks itself in some Measure recompensed by the Satisfaction You receive in extending Your Royal Bounty, to the Comfort of the Unhappy, and Relief of the Distressed.

Your Majesty's Town of *Saint John*, the late flourishing Metropolis of Antigua, and the Mart and Store-house of it's Sister Islands, is, in the Space of a few Hours, from a rich and well-built City, become a Pile of Ruins. A Fire, which broke out on the Seventeenth Day of August, and burnt with uncommon Fury for Twelve Hours, in Spite of every Effort to stop it's Progress, has consumed almost every valuable Building we could boast of, and presents a Spectacle of Horror and Desolation, equalled only by the Despair and Misery of our poor Inhabitants. Of the Dwelling-houses and Stores of our Merchants, (which were filled with Provisions and other Goods for the Use of this and the neighbouring Islands) nothing now remains but the bare Walls: And the Destruction of the greatest Part of our Cisterns and Reservoirs, in a Town destitute of Springs of Water, creates the most dreadful Apprehensions of the Want of that Necessary of Life. Nor has the Loss been confined to Your Majesty's Subjects, as private Persons; Your Majesty's Custom-house is laid in Ashes. Some of our public Buildings have shared in the general Calamity: Our Market-house, Goal, and Arsenal, are destroyed; and the Necessity of an immediate Increase of the Public Expence, to repair these Losses, adds still more heavily to the Distress of the Individual. By this unfortunate and fatal Accident, Most Gracious SIR E, many Families of Your Majesty's most faithful Subjects are at once reduced, from Ease and Competence, to Indigence and Misery; and the whole Loss, sustained in Provisions, Goods, and Buildings, is estimated at FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS. The Wants of the most wretched of our Sufferers call loudly on us for immediate Relief; and the Hand of Charity has been already stretched out for that Purpose: But the Contributions of the Charitable within this Island only, in its present Situation, are inadequate

to a Calamity, so general in its Extent, and so ruinous in its Consequences.

Thus unhappy and distressed, to whom (under God) should we look up for Relief or Comfort, but to your most Excellent Majesty, whose paternal and tender Regard for Your Subjects, however distant from Your Sacred Person, will (we presume) induce You to extend Your Royal Bounty towards the Indigent in this Island? Should Your Majesty be graciously pleased to consider our Inhabitants, who are thus reduced to Poverty, as Objects of Your Royal Beneficence, we flatter ourselves, that our Fellow-Subjects in our Mother-Country, animated by Your great Example, will not confine the good Influence of that Charity, for which they have been so long famed and admired, within the Limits of Great Britain; but will generously send forth their Contributions to the unhappy Sufferers in Antigua, and convince the World, that their Bounty, like Your Majesty's Gracious and Benevolent Protection, extends itself without Distinction to the Distressed, in every remote Quarter of Your Majesty's Dominions.

Your Majesty's Petitioners therefore most humbly pray Your most Excellent Majesty, That You would be graciously pleased to extend Your Royal Bounty towards Your faithful and loyal Subjects in this Island, and to grant them such Relief, as to Your Majesty's Humanity and Beneficence shall seem proper.

*And Your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.*

EDWARD OTTO BAIJER, *President of the Council.*

THOMAS WARNER, *Speaker.*

AT the Court at St. James's, the 22d Day of December, 1769,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

**W**H E R E A S there was this Day read at the Board a Letter from the Commissioners of Customs in Scotland to the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 12th of this Instant, setting forth, That the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, as Preses of the Convention of the Royal Boroughs in Scotland, had informed them, that Mr. John Stuart, Deputy Conservator of the Scots Privileges at Campveer, had transmitted to his Lordship a Copy of a Placart published by the States of Zeeland, prohibiting, under certain Restrictions, the Importation of Hay and Straw into the said Province, as apprehending the Infection raging in other Parts among the Horned Cattle had been spread by the Introduction of those Commodities; and informing his Lordship, that a Ship called the *Peggy of Dyfert*, John Spittle Master, had taken on Board a Parcel of Hay at Middleburgh, in order to be landed at Dyfert in Scotland; and his Lordship having desired that Orders might be given to the Officers of the Customs for delaying the Landing of the said Hay, the said Commissioners of the Customs, in regard to the Delicacy and Importance of the Matter, and to the Alarm and Apprehensions which such Importation under those Circumstances might occasion, had consulted His Majesty's Advocate, and agreeable to his Opinion they complied with the Request of the Lord Provost, and desired Directions from