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From Thursday October 26. to Monday October 30. 1676.

Witchball, Octob. 26.

HIS Majesty has been pleased to command the following order of Council to be Published.

At the Court at Whitehall the third of October, 1676.

Present

The Kings Most Excellent Majesty

His Highness Prince
Rupert
Lord Chancellor
Lord Treasurer
Duke of Monmouth
Duke of Lauderdale
Earl of Orlery
Earl of Sunderland
Earl of Peterborough
Earl of Bath

Earl of Craven
Earl of Carbery
Viscount Fauconberg
Viscount Newport
Lord Bishop of London
Mr. Secretary Coventry
Mr. Secretary Williamson
Mr. Chancellor of the
Exchequer.
Master of the Ordnance.

WHEREAS His Majesty and this Board are informed of the bold and open repair made to several Places, and especially to Her Majesties Chappel at Somerset House, and the Houses of Foreign Ambassadors, Agents, and other Publick Ministers, for the hearing of Masses, and other Worship and Service of the Romish Church; and that the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers, do permit and suffer both daily Masses to be said, and other Worship and Service to be performed in their Houses, in a publick manner by English, Scottish, and Irish Priests, and also Sermons in English to be Preached in their said Houses and Chappels, which the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom do expressly forbid His Subjects to frequent or do; His Majesty taking the same into serious Consideration, and being sensible thereof, as a matter highly tending to the violation of the Laws of the Realm, and the scandal of Religion and Government, and breach of good Order, and in His Princely Wisdom weighing the dangerous Consequence thereof, is Resolved to take strict Order for the stopping this Evil before it spread any further.

His Majesty therefore, by the Advice of His Council, doth hereby forbid any of His said Subjects hereafter to offend in the like kind, at their utmost perils; And straitly Commands, That no others presume to Resort to Her Majesties Chappel, but such as are Her Majesties Domestick Servants. And to the end this Provision and Order may be the more effectual, His Majesty doth Command, That inasmuch as concerneth the repair to the Houses of Foreign Ambassadors, Agents and Ministers, at the time of Masses, or other Romish Worship or Service, some Messengers of the Chamber, or other Officers or persons fit for that Service, be appointed to Watch at the several Passages to their Houses, and without carrying into the said Houses, or invading the Freedom and Privileges belonging unto them, observe such persons as go thither at such times, without stopping or Questioning any as they go thither, but at their coming from thence, they are to Apprehend and bring the said persons to the Board, and such as they cannot Apprehend,

to bring their Names. And that the Ambassadors and other Foreign Ministers may have no cause to Complain for this Proceeding, as if there were any Intention to wrong or disrespect them, His Majesty doth likewise Order, for the preventing of any such mistaking and sinister interpretation, That His principal Secretaries of State (according unto His Majesties express Commands now given unto them) should be hereby authorized and required forthwith to repair to the said Ambassadors, Agents, and other Foreign Ministers, to make known unto them His Majesties Pleasure concerning the same; And that as His Majesty is careful not to have any the just Privileges and Immunities of the said Ambassadors, Agents, or Ministers, to be in any degree infringed or violated, so in the aforesaid Particulars of permitting Masses or other Service to be said by any of the said Priests, or Sermons to be Preached in English in their Houses or Chappels (things never heard of or attempted by any precedent Ambassadors or Agents here) or in suffering His Subjects to resort unto them, His Majesty is no less careful of preserving His Laws, and conveining His Subjects in their due obedience to the same; and doth therefore expect the said Ambassadors, Agents, and Ministers compliance accordingly. And hereof His Majesty thinks fit that Notice should be first given to the said Publick Ministers (the rather to testify His Respects unto them) before the stricter Course His Majesty hath Resolved, be taken with His own Subjects, by a Vigorous Prosecution, and infliction of Penalties and Punishments for the preventing and repressing the like hereafter.

And it is likewise Ordered, That the Messengers of the Chamber, or others to be employed in the Service before specified, shall be appointed, and receive their Charge from the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of London, and the said Secretaries, or some of them, who are to take special care to see this put in due and effectual Execution.

EDW. WALKER.

Warsaw, Octob. 19. This morning is arrived here a Gentleman, who came Post from Lublin, he reports that they had news there, that our King had been engaged with the Turks and Tartars; That the fight had been very sharp and obstinate, and that 6000 Poles, and almost twice that number of the Infidels, had lost their lives in it, though to our disadvantage, for that the loss on our side, is by far more considerable to us, than that of the Enemy to them; and what is yet worse, the King continues in a manner blockaded up in his Camp, without being able to receive those supplies of Provisions that are necessary, especially for subsistence of his Cavalry: that the Archbishop of Gnesna has hereupon caused the needful Letters to be issued, for the Convoking the Arrierban, in which Letters he exhorts them to repair to the places appointed for their Rendezvous, with all possible diligence, for the delivering the King and Kingdoms from the dangers and ruines which are hanging over it. But after all this, news coming as yet onely by the person above-mentioned, we are unwilling to give an entire credit to it, till it comes confirmed, which we hope it will not. Copenhagen.