

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday March 19, to Saturday March 23, 1776.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,

For encouraging Seamen to enter themselves on Board His Majesty's Ships of War.

GEORGE R.

WHEREAS it is Our Royal Intention to give all due Encouragement to all such Seamen, who shall voluntarily enter themselves in Our Service; We have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Our Privy Council, to publish this Our Royal Proclamation: And We do hereby promise and declare, That all such Able Seamen, not above the Age of Fifty, nor under the Age of Eighteen Years, fit for Our Service, who shall, on or before the Thirtieth Day of April next, voluntarily enter themselves to serve in Our Royal Navy, either with the Captains or Lieutenants of Our Ships, or the Chief Officers on Board such Tenders as shall be employed for raising Men for the Service of Our Navy; shall receive, as Our Royal Bounty, the Sum of Three Pounds each Man; and all such Ordinary Seamen, fit for Our Service, who shall so enter themselves as aforesaid, shall receive the Sum of Two Pounds each Man, as Our Royal Bounty, in Lieu of all other Bounties mentioned in Our Proclamation dated the Third of January, and Our Order in Council of the Twenty-eighth Day of February last; such respective Sums to be paid them by the respective Clerks of the Cheque residing at the Ports or Places where the Ships, into which they shall be entered, shall be, immediately after the Third Muster of such Seamen: And We do declare, that the Qualifications of the Seamen so entering themselves as aforesaid, shall be certified by the Captain, Master, and Boatswain of the Ship or Vessel where they shall enter. And for Prevention of any Abuses by any Persons leaving the Vessels to which they shall belong, and entering themselves on Board any other Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty-Money; We do hereby declare and Command, that such Seamen belonging to any of our Ships or Vessels, as shall absent themselves from any of the said Ships or Vessels to which they shall belong, and shall enter themselves on Board any other of our said Ships or Vessels, in order to obtain the said Bounty, shall not only lose the Wages due to them in the Ships or Vessels they shall leave, but also be severely punished according to their Merits.

Given at Our Court at *St. James's*, the Twenty-second Day of *March*, One thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

G O D save the K I N G.

St. James's, March 22.

This Day the Right Honourable the Lord-Mayor, several of the Aldermen, the Sheriffs, and some of the Common-Council, of the City of London, waited upon His Majesty (being introduced by the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain of His Majesty's Household) with the following Address and Petition, which was read by the Recorder:

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty,
The humble Address and Petition of the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common-Council assembled, beg Leave to approach your Throne, and to intreat your Majesty's Royal Attention, whilst, with the Humility of dutiful Subjects, we lay before your Majesty what at present most immediately affects us in the Spirit and Tendency of the Public Measures now depending, and the Anxiety we feel at the naked and exposed State in which this Country will be left, by draining it of the National Troops, as well as at the Danger and Disgrace attending the late Treaties for Foreign Mercenaries, whose Latitude is such as to provide the means of introducing a Foreign Army even into this

National Debt and of burthensome Taxes, that Loss of our most valuable Resources, those Distresses of our Merchants and Manufacturers, those Deficiencies of the Revenue, that Effusion of the Blood of our Countrymen and Brethren, that Failure of Public Credit, and those dreadful Calamities and Convulsions, which must follow a Civil War so begun and pursued, whose Extent no Wisdom can foresee.

We humbly conceive that no People can be bound to surrender their Rights and Liberties as a Return for Protection. The Colonies have fought our Battles with us; and in the last War they so far exceeded their Abilities, that this Nation thought it just and necessary to make them an annual Compensation; and even now, driven to open Hostilities in their own Defence, they are willing (their Charters being inviolably secured) to continue to us all those Advantages of a regulated and exclusive Commerce, to which we have long owed our Opulence and Prosperity: And we have every Assurance, which Men in their Situation can safely give, that, if asked as Freemen, they are willing to go farther, and to afford to the exhausted State of the Revenue of this Country such reasonable voluntary Aid as their Abilities permit; provided that their Contributions are unalienably applied to relieve that Distress, which is the only fair and politic Foundation of requiring them; and that neither their Aids, nor our own Sinking Fund, shall be any longer perverted from a Public Benefit, and misapplied to the Purpose of Corruption, instead of redeeming the Debts of the Nation, according to its first wise and just Institution.

Indulge, most Gracious Sovereign, the Humanity and Benignity of your own Royal Disposition, and our Prayers will be granted. We implore the Extension of your Majesty's Justice and Mercy toward that Continent, which, when Arbitrer of the Terms of Peace, it was your Majesty's own Determination to prefer to every other Compensation for all the Expences of the last War. We humbly and earnestly beseech your Majesty, that the most solemn, clear, distinct, and unambiguous Specification of those just and honourable Terms, which your Majesty, with both Houses of Parliament, means to grant to the Colonies, may precede the dreadful Operations of your Armament. Every Colour and Suspicion of Injustice and Oppression will then be removed from the Proceedings of the Mother Country; and if those just and honourable Terms are not submitted to, your Majesty will undoubtedly be enabled to meet, what will then be Rebellion, with the zealous Hearts and Hands of a determined, loyal, and united People.

-Signed by Order of Court,
William Rix,

To which Address and Petition His Majesty was pleased to return the following Answer:

I Deplore, with the deepest Concern, the Miseries which a great Part of My Subjects in North America have brought upon Themselves, by an unjustifiable Resistance to the Constitutional Authority of this Kingdom; and I shall be ready and happy to alleviate those Miseries, by Acts of Mercy and Clemency, whenever that Authority is established, and the now existing Rebellion is at an End.—To obtain these salutary Purposes, I will invariably pursue the most proper and effectual Means.

The following Address of the Magistrates, Common-Council, Burgesses, and Inhabitants of the Town and Burgh of Sanquhar, has been presented to His Majesty by William Douglas, Esq; their Representative in Parliament, 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,

The humble Address of the Magistrates, Common-Council, Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town and Burgh of Sanquhar,

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects,



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