

By the KING,  
A P R O C L A M A T I O N

*For suppressing Riots and Tumults committed by Colliers and others in the Counties of Northumberland and Durham; and for apprehending and bringing to Justice the Persons who have committed or shall commit the same.*

G E O R G E R.

**W**H E R E A S it has been represented to Us, that a great Number of Pitmen, to the Number of Two Hundred and upwards, did in a tumultuous, disorderly and riotous Manner, assemble themselves, upon the Tenth Day of March last, at Long Benton Colliery, in the County of Northumberland, and there wilfully and maliciously damaged and destroyed several Engines erected for drawing Coals out of several of the Pits of the said Colliery, and did also wilfully and maliciously set on Fire one Pit belonging to the said Colliery, and the same continued on Fire for two whole Days, to the great Damage of the Proprietors thereof; and also that on the said Tenth Day of March a Number of Pitmen, to the Number of Two Hundred and upwards, assembled themselves in like Manner at a certain Pit called the Robert Pit, belonging to Shire Moore Colliery, in the County aforesaid, and there wilfully and maliciously destroyed and damaged various Implements, Materials and Engines belonging to the same: And also, that on the said tenth Day of March, a number of Pitmen to the Number of One Hundred and upwards, did in like Manner assemble themselves at Walls-End Colliery in the County aforesaid, and wilfully and maliciously did considerable Damage to the Gins and Machines belonging to the said Colliery: And also that on the said tenth Day of March, a Number of Pitmen, to the Number of One Hundred and upwards, in like Manner assembled, wilfully and maliciously broke and damaged the Engine for drawing Coals at the Engine Pit of East Benton Colliery in the County aforesaid: Whereas it has also been represented unto Us, that a Number of Persons to the Number of One Hundred and upwards, assembled themselves together upon the said tenth Day of March last, at a Colliery called Walker Colliery, situate in the said County, and by Force and Violence prevented the working of a certain Coal Pit belonging to the said Colliery, and broke and damaged a certain Engine or Engines belonging to the same, and violently assaulted some of the Workmen of the said Colliery, and threw down Heap Lamps into the said Pit with Fire in them: And whereas it has also been represented to Us, that upon the Eleventh or Twelfth Days of the said Month of March divers Persons assembled themselves together in a like riotous, tumultuous and illegal Manner at Gosforth Pit, belonging to the said Colliery, and threw Lamps and other Materials down the same: And whereas it has also been represented to Us, that on the several Days aforesaid, divers Persons being riotously, tumultuously and illegally assembled, did various other Outrages and Mischiefs to several of the Coal Mines in the said Counties of Northumberland and Durham; in open Defiance of Justice and the Laws, by which the Peace of the said County, and the Lives and Properties of Our good Subjects are greatly endangered; We, therefore, being deeply sensible of the many mischievous Consequences that must inevitably ensue to the Peace of Our Kingdom, and the Lives and Properties of Our loving Subjects from such wicked and illegal Practices, if they shall go unpunished; and being firmly resolved to cause the Laws of this Our Kingdom to be put in Execution for the Punishment of all such Offenders, have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this

Our Royal Proclamation, hereby strictly commanding and requiring all Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Under Sheriffs, and all other Our Civil Officers whatsoever, that they do use their utmost Endeavours for discovering and apprehending the Persons who We are informed are concerned in the said Outrages and Riots, and who shall be concerned in any such riotous and dangerous Practices, to the End they may be brought to Justice. And We do hereby promise and declare, that if any Person or Persons concerned in the said Outrages and Felonies, or in any of the said Crimes, shall, on or before the Third Day of June next, discover and apprehend, or cause to be discovered and apprehended, any other Person or Persons who hath or have or shall have been concerned in any of the said Offences, that have or shall have been committed on or since the said Tenth Day of March last, so as he or they may be convicted thereof, such Discoverer or Discoverers thereof shall have Our most Gracious Pardon. And as a further Encouragement to such as shall discover the said Offenders, We do hereby further promise and declare, that any Person or Persons who shall, on before the said Third Day of June next, discover and apprehend, or cause to be discovered and apprehended, any of the Persons concerned in the said Outrages and Riots, so as he or they may be convicted thereof, shall have and receive for every Person so discovered, apprehended and convicted, the Sum of FIFTY POUNDS, which said Sum the Commissioners of Our Treasury, or Our Lord High Treasurer for the Time being, are hereby directed and required to pay accordingly, without any further Warrant in that Behalf. And We do hereby further strictly charge and command all Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Under Sheriffs, and other Officers aforesaid, that they do use the most effectual Means for suppressing all Riots and Tumults, and to that End effectually put in Execution an Act of Parliament made in the First Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Ancestor, King George the First, of glorious Memory, intituled, "An Act for preventing Tumults and riotous Assemblies, and for the more speedy and effectual punishing the Rioters," and all other Laws and Statutes made against Riots, Routs, and unlawful Assemblies; and that the said Justices, and all other Our Civil Officers to whom it doth appertain, do give the necessary Directions that sufficient Watch and Ward be duly kept at such Times and Places as they shall judge necessary for the preventing and suppressing the like Disorders. And We do hereby further strictly charge and command all Our Officers, Civil and Military, and all other Our loving Subjects, that they be aiding and assisting in the Execution of Our Commands herein, and in the apprehending and taking the said Persons and all other Persons who have offended, or shall hereafter offend in Manner aforesaid. And We do hereby charge and command, that the said Offenders be prosecuted with the utmost Severity and Rigour of the Law, We being resolved to suppress such Riots and Tumults by a most strict and exemplary Punishment of all such Offenders. And We do hereby command the respective Justices of the Peace and other Magistrates aforesaid, that they do from Time to Time transmit an exact Account of what they shall do pursuant to this Our Royal Proclamation, to one of Our Principal Secretaries of State.

Given at Our Court at Windsor, the Third Day of April, in the Twenty-ninth Year of Our Reign.

G O D save the KING,