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PROCLAMATION for pardoning DESERTERS.

War-Office, September 22, 1796.

WHEREAS it has been represented to the King, That there are at this Time several Deserters from the different Regular Corps in His Majesty's Land Service, who might be induced to return to their Duty by an Offer of His Majesty's gracious Pardon, and that such an Instance of his Royal Clemency would have a due Influence upon their future Behaviour;

His Majesty has been graciously pleased, by his Order in Council, to grant his free Pardon to all Deserters from his Regular Land Forces, who shall surrender themselves, on or before the 30th Day of November next, to any of the Superintending Field Officers of the Recruiting Service, whose Stations are mentioned in the Margin hereof, or to the Inspector-General of the Recruiting Service at Chatham Barracks.

Such Deserters, if able-bodied Men and fit for Service, shall be appointed to such Regiments as His Majesty may be pleased to command; and shall not be liable to be claimed by any other Corps to which they may formerly have belonged.

And whereas many of the said Deserters may have enlisted in other Regular Corps, and are now serving therein, His Majesty is graciously pleased to

extend to such Deserters the Benefit of this Pardon; and to direct that they shall continue to serve in the Corps wherein they now are, without being under the Necessity of declaring themselves Deserters, in order to entitle them to the Benefit of this Pardon; and they shall not be liable, at any future Time, to be claimed by the Regiments in which they formerly served: But this Clause is not to extend to Deserters enlisted by the Corps raising Recruits for general Service; which Deserters are only to be entitled to their Pardon on declaring themselves at Chatham Barracks to be such, and being there transferred to some established Regiment.

And whereas several of the said Deserters have been apprehended, and are now in Gaol, or in Regimental Custody, His Majesty is likewise pleased to grant them his free Pardon, of which they are to have the Benefit upon their Arrival under Escort at Chatham Barracks, where they will be disposed of in the Manner above-mentioned.

Any Soldier who may desert after these His Majesty's gracious Intentions are made public, shall not be included in the above Pardon, but be proceeded against with the utmost Severity.

By His Majesty's Command,

W. Windham.

Whitehall, September 27, 1796.

The King has been pleased to grant unto John Dicken, of the Nash in the County of Worcester, and of Stonehouse in the County of Devon, Esq; his Royal Licence and Authority that he and his Issue may