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By the KING.

A PROCLAMATION,

For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the preventing and punishing of Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality.

WILLIAM, R.

WE, most seriously and religiously considering that it is an indispensable duty on Us to be careful, above all other things, to preserve and advance the honour and service of Almighty God, and to discourage and suppress all Vice, Profaneness, Debauchery, and Immorality, which are so highly displeasing to God, so great a reproach to Our Religion and Government, and (by means of the frequent ill examples of the practices thereof) have so fatal a tendency to the corruption of many of Our loving subjects, otherwise religiously and virtuously disposed, and which (if not timely remedied) may justly draw down the Divine vengeance on Us and Our Kingdom; We also humbly acknowledging that We cannot expect the blessing and Goodness of Almighty God (by whom Kings reign and on Which We entirely rely) to make Our Reign happy and prosperous to Ourselves and Our people, without a religious observance of God's holy laws; to the intent therefore, that Religion, Piety, and Good Manners may (according to Our most hearty desire) flourish and increase under Our Administration and Government, We have thought fit, by the advice of Our Privy Council, to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby

declare Our Royal purpose and resolution to discountenance and punish all manner of Vice, Profaneness, and Immorality in all persons of whatsoever degree or quality within this Our Realm, and particularly in such as are employed near Our Royal Person; and that for the encouragement of Religion and Morality, We will, upon all occasions, distinguish persons of Piety and Virtue by marks of Our Royal favour; and We do expect and require, that all persons of honour or in place of authority will give good example, by their own Virtue and Piety, and to their utmost contribute to the discountenancing persons of dissolute and debauched lives, that they, being reduced by that means to shame and contempt for their loose and evil actions and behaviour, may be thereby also enforced the sooner to reform their ill habits and practices, and that the visible displeasure of good men towards them may (as far as it is possible) supply what the laws (probably) cannot altogether prevent: and We do hereby strictly enjoin and prohibit all Our loving subjects, of what degree or quality soever, from playing on the Lord's Day at dice, cards, or any other game whatsoever, either in public or private houses, or other place or places whatsoever; and We do hereby require and command them, and every of them, decently and reverently to attend the worship of God, on every Lord's Day, on pain of Our highest displeasure, and of being proceeded against with the utmost rigour that may be by law: and for the more effectual reforming all such persons who, by reason of their