

# The London Gazette.

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## HIS MAJESTIES GRACIOUS DECLARATION.

JAMES R.

**O**UR Conduct has been, such in all times, as ought to have persuaded the World, that We are firm and constant to Our Resolutions, yet that ease People may not be abused by the Malice of Crafty Wicked Men, We think fit to Declare, That Our Intentions are not changed since the Fourth of April 1687. when We Issued out Our Declaration for Liberty of Conscience in the following Terms.

### His Majesties Gracious Declaration to all His Loving Subjects for Liberty of Conscience.

JAMES R.

**I**T having pleased Almighty God not only to bring Us to the Imperial Crown of these Kingdoms through the greatest difficulties, but to preserve Us by a more than ordinary Providence upon the Throne of Our Royal Ancestors, there is nothing now that We do earnestly desire, as to Establish Our Government on such a Foundation, as may make Our Subjects happy, and unite them to Us by Inclination as well as Duty; Which We think can be done by no Means so effectually, as by granting to them the free Exercise of their Religion for the time to come, and add that to the perfect enjoyment of their Property, which has never been in any Case Invaied by Us since Our coming to the Crown; which being the two Things Men value most, shall ever be preferred in these Kingdoms, during Our Reign over them, as the truest Methods of their Peace and Our Glory. We cannot but heartily wish, as it will easily be believed, that all the People of Our Dominions were Members of the Catholick Church, yet We humbly thank Almighty God, it is, and hath of long time been Our constant Sense and Opinion (which upon diverse Occasions We have declared) that Conscience ought not to be constrained; nor People forced in matters of meer Religion: It has ever been directly contrary to Our Inclination, as We think it is to the Interest of Government, which it destroys by spoiling Trade, depopulating Countreys, and discouraging Strangers; and finally, that it never obtained the End for which it was employed: And in this We are the more Confirmed by the Reflections we have made upon the Conduct of the four last Reigns. For after all the frequent and pressing Endeavours that were used in each of them, to reduce this Kingdom to an exact Conformity in Religion, it is visible, the Success has not answered the Design, and that the difficulty is invincible. We therefore out of Our Princely Care and Affection unto all Our Loving Subjects, that they may live at Ease and Quiet, and for the increase of Trade, and encouragement of Strangers, have thought fit by vertue of Our Royal Prerogative, to issue forth this Our Declaration of Indulgence; making no doubt of the Concurrence of Our Two Houses of Parliament, when We shall think it convenient for them to Meet.

In the first place We do Declare, That We will Protect and Maintain Our Arch-Bishops, Bishops, and Clergy, and all other Our Subjects of the Church of England, in the free Exercise of their Religion, as by Law Established, and in the quiet and full Enjoyment of: all their Possessions, without any Molestation or Disturbance whatsoever.

We do likewise Declare, That it is Our Royal Will and Pleasure, That from henceforth the Execution of all and all manner of Penal Laws in Matters Ecclesiastical, for not coming to Church, or not Receiving the Sacrament, or for any other Non-conformity to the Religion Established, or for, or by Reason of the Exercise of Religion in any manner whatsoever, be immediately Suspended; And the further Execution of the said Penal Laws and every of them is hereby Suspended.

And to the end that by the Liberty hereby granted, the Peace

and Security of Our Government in the Practice thereof, may not be endangered, We have thought fit, and do hereby straitly Charge and Command all Our Loving Subjects, That as We do freely give them Leave to Meet and serve God after their own Way and Manner, be it in private Houses or Places purposely Hired or Built for that use; so that they take special care, that nothing be Preached or Taught amongst them, which may any ways tend to Alienate the Hearts of Our People from Us or Our Government; And that their Meetings and Assemblies be peaceably, openly and publicly held, and all Persons freely admitted to them; and that they do signify and make known to some one or more of the next Justices of the Peace, what Place or Places they set apart for those uses.

And that all Our Subjects may enjoy such their Religious Assemblies with greater Assurance and Protection, We have thought it requisite, and do hereby Command, That no Disturbance of any kind be made or given unto them, under Pain of Our Displeasure, and to be further proceeded against with the uttermost severity.

And for as much as We are desirous to have the Benefit of the Service of all Our Loving Subjects, which by the Law of Nature is inseparably annexed to, and inherent in Our Royal Person; And that none of Our Subjects may for the future be under any Discouragement or Disability (who are otherwise well inclined and fit to serve Us) by Reason of some Oaths or Tests that have been usually administered on such Occasions: We do hereby further Declare, That it is Our Royal Will and Pleasure, That the Oaths commonly called, *The Oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance*, and also the several Tests and Declarations mentioned in the Acts of Parliament made in the 27th and 30th Years of the Reign of Our late Royal Brother King Charles the Second, shall not at any time hereafter be required to be Taken, Declared, or Subscribed by any Person or Persons whatsoever, whois or shall be Employed in any Office or Place of Trust either Civil or Military, under Us, or in Our Government. And We do further Declare it to be Our Pleasure and Intention from time to time hereafter, to Grant Our Royal Dispensations under Our Great Seal to all Our Loving Subjects, who to be Employed, who shall not take the said Oaths, or Subscribe or Declare the said Tests or Declarations in the abovesaid Acts and every of them.

And to the end that all Our Loving Subjects may receive and enjoy the full benefit and advantage of Our Gracious Indulgence hereby intended, and may be acquitted and Discharg'd from all Pains, Penalties, Forfeitures and Disabilities by them or any of them Incurr'd or Forfeited, or which they shall or may at any time hereafter be liable to, for or by Reason of their Nonconformity, or the Exercise of their Religion, and from all Suits, Troubles or Disturbances for the same: We do hereby give Our Free, and Ample Pardon unto all Non-conformists, Recantants, and other Our Loving Subjects, for all Crimes and Things by them Committed or done contrary to the Penal Laws formerly made relating to Religion, and the Profession or Exercise thereof. Hereby Declaring, That this Our Royal Pardon and Indemnity shall be as good and effectual to all intents and purposes, as if every individual Person had been therein particularly nam'd, or had particular Pardons under Our Great Seal, which We do likewise Declare, shall from time to time be Granted unto any Person or Persons desiring the same: Willing and Requiring Our Judges, Justices, and other Officers, to take Notice of and Obey Our Royal Will and Pleasure herein before Declared.

And although the Freedom and Assurances We have hereby given in relation to Religion and Property might be sufficient to remove from the minds of Our Loving Subjects all Fears and Jealousies in relation to either; Yet we have thought fit further to Declare, That we will maintain them in all their Properties and Possessions, as well of Church and Abby-Lands, as in any other their Lands and Properties whatsoever.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the Fourth Day of April, 1688. In the Third Year of Our Reign.

For Justice We give unto all Indulgence, We have made it Our principal Care, that no Person shall suffer without distinction; as

We are encouraged to do daily by Multitudes of Addresses, and many other Assurances We receive from Our Subjects of all Professions, as Testimonies of their Satisfaction and Duty; the Effects of which We doubt not but the next Parliament will plainly shew, and that it will not be in vain that We have resolved to use Our utmost endeavours to Establish Liberty of Conscience on such just and equal Foundations, as will render it unalterable, and secure to all People the free Exercise of their Religion for ever; by which future Ages may reap the benefit of what is so undoubtedly for the general Good of the whole Kingdom. It is such a Security We desire without the burthen and constraint of Oaths and Tests, which have been unhappily made by some Governments, but could never support any, nor should men be advanced by such means to Offices and Employments, which ought to be the Reward of Services, Fidelity and Merit. We must conclude, That not only good Christians will join in this, but whoever is concerned for the increase of the Wealth and Power of the Nation. It would perhaps prejudice some of Our Neighbours who might lose part of those vast Advantages they now enjoy, if Liberty of Conscience were settled in these Kingdoms, which we have all others most capable of Improvements, and of commanding the Trade of the World: in pursuance of this great Work We have been forced to make many Changes both of Civil and Military Officers throughout Our Dominions, not thinking any ought to be employed in Our Service, who will not contribute towards the establishing the Peace and Greatness of their Country; which We most earnestly desire, as in any such Men may see by the whole Conduct of Our Government, and by the Condition of Our Fleet, and of Our Armies, which with good Management shall be constantly rise same, and greater; if the Safety or Honour of the Nation require it. We recommend these Considerations to all Our Subjects; and that they will reflect on their present Ease and Happiness, how far above three Years that it has pleased God to permit us to Reign over these Kingdoms, We have not appeared to be that Prince, Our Enemies would have made the World afraid of. Our chief Aim having been not to be the Oppressor, but the Father of Our People; of which we can give no better Evidence than by Conjoining them to lay aside all private Animosities as well as groundless Jealousies, and to choose such Members of Parliament as may do their part to finish what We have begun for the Advantage of the Monarchy, over which Almighty God hath placed Us, being resolved to call a Parliament that shall meet in November next, at furthest.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the Twenty seventh day of April, 1688. In the Fourth Year of Our Reign;

Madrid, April 10. The King went the last week to the Escorial, where he intends to pass 10 days or a fortnight. The Count de Cifuentes Viceroy of Peru, has resigned that Government to his Majesty, who has given him one of the principal Places in the Council of the Indies. The Count de la Monda Viceroy of Mexico is to remove in the same quality to Peru; and Don Gaspar de Sylva Count de Geluz Brother of the Duke de Infantado, is made Viceroy of Mexico. We have account of an Infurrection in Catalonia, where several thousand people are said to be got together in Arms; but such Orders have been thereupon sent thither, that it's not doubted but those Malecontents will soon be dispersed.

Rome, April 10. The Council of Forty have written a Letter to the Doge Morosini, to Complement him upon his Election; in which they tell him, That as this Choice had fallen upon him by an unanimous Consent in consideration of his great Services, so they doubt not but the Glory of the Arms of the Republick, which he had in so many Campaigns supported by his prudent Conduct, would be still augmented by fresh advantages. By a Vessel arrived from Zant we are informed, that the Doge having been at Napoli di Romania, and at Misitra, to give Orders about the security of those places, he was returned with 20 Gallies to Athens, and that having put all things in a readines for the Campaign, it was believed he would open it with an attempt upon Negropont. A Felucca is arrived here from Dalmatia with 12 Colors, which were taken by the Cuzzi and other People of Albania in their late Action with the Turks, whom they entirely defeated.

Vienna, April 22. We have Advice from Hungary, That General Caraffa continuing his March towards Lipps; Count Tékely had endeavoured to oppose him, having for that purpose got together what Troops he could, and composed of Turks, Tartars and Rebels a body of 6000 men, but that coming to an Engagement, he was defeated and put to flight with the loss of 2000 of his men. That General Caraffa advancing afterwards towards Lipps, and Summoning the Place, the Garrison, understanding the Defeat of the Troops from whom they expected Relief, had Surrendered upon Articles; but this News not coming from the General, but only by private Letters, we know not what Credit to give to it. We have an account from Five Churches, That Major General Zerbi had blockt up Sighet very closely, by seizing several Posts near the Town; and

that the Turks in Garison there, as well as the Inhabitants, de- liver'd daily by reason of the want they were in of Provisions. The last Week above 100 Persons who came from Alba Regalis, surrendered themselves to our Troops, and declared that they had Provisions there but for 15 Days longer, but there having been so many of these Reports, the less regard is now given to them, and the Preparations that are making to Attack that place are continued at Raab by the Baron d'Arrestage, to whose Conduct this Enterprize is committed. The Imperial Forces begin to move on all sides; They are its said to act in two distinct Armies; the one to be Commanded by the Duke of Lorain, and under him by Prince Louis of Baden and General Dunewald; and the other by the Elector of Bavaria assisted by General Caprawa.

Hamburg, April, 23. The Duke of Holstein having absolutely rejected the Equivalent proposed by the King of Denmark, of the Counties of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst, for that the Revenues thereof, as is alleged by his Ministers, do not by a great deal come up to those of the Duchy of Sleswick, and that his Dominions being thus separated, he could not be able to defend them: The Mediators have since proposed another Equivalent, (which it's said the Duke is willing to treat upon) viz. That Endeavours be used to persuade the Duke of Holstein and the other Princes of the House of Holstein, who have Estates in this Country, to exchange them for others to be granted them by the King of Denmark in the Counties of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst; And that these Estates with some farther Compensation be given to the Duke of Holstein in lieu of his Pretensions upon the Duchy of Sleswick, &c. And in the mean time that the Treaty be suspended for some months, that application may be made the Princes concerned to bring them to consent to this Exchange; in which they will have this Advantage, that from being Vassals as they are now, they will become Sovereigns of those Counties. To this Proposition the Danish Ministers have answered, That the King their Master in respect of the good Offices of the Mediators (though his Majesty had Reason to take ill the Dukes refusal of the Offer he had made him, which was more than an Equivalent) would not waver the Negotiation of the Exchange proposed, provided the Duke of Holstein do on his side declare he is contented with it, and that he will accept in the Counties of Oldenburg and Delmenhorst any farther satisfaction he pretends to: But as to the Prorogation of the Treaty, that his Majesty cannot think it needful, for that while the Exchange is Treating of, the other Points in Question may likewise be adjusted, and both together brought to a good Conclusion.

Hague, May 4. The Sieur Raule is arrived here from Berlin, to renew the Conference with the Deputies of this State, for the adjusting the Differences that are still depending between the Dutch and Brandenburg West-India Companies. Admiral Quersse, who is to Command the Squadron of this State, appointed to Rendezvous at Schonevelt, is expected here in a day or two to receive his Instructions. The Envoy from Argier is still here.

Brussels, May 4. The Elector of Saxony arrived at Antwerp on Friday last being received with a discharge of the Cannon of the Place, and with all the other honours, which the short warning they had of his coming would permit. The next Day he went to Malines, whither our Governour sent the Marquis de Bedmar General of the Artillery, to Complement his E. H. and to invite him to this place. His E. H. returned the Complement by his Chamberlain, and at the same time excused his coming thither, seeing his Excellency would not suffer him by the Preparations he had made, to do it incognito. However it's believed his Electoral Highness (who went from Malines to Dendermonde, and from thence to Holland) will pass privately through this place in his return to Gaunt. There are Letters from Hungary, which say, That General Caraffa had taken Lipps after having Defeated 6000 Turks and Hungarians that would have hindered his March.

Marseilles, April 26. There are fitting here 15 Gallies and 12 Men of War at Toulon, where it's said 20000 Bombs are likewise preparing. This Squadron will be commanded by the Marechal d'Estres, who is daily expected here.

Paris, May 3. The King has had three Fits of a Tertian Ague, but his Majesty is now very well again and is gone to Marli. The Duke of Orleans is likewise recovered of his late Illness. It's very much hoped that some means will be found to accommodate the Differences between this Court and Rome.

Whitehall, April 28. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint John Digby Esq; to be High Sheriff of the County of Rutland.

Whitehall, April 29. 1688.

UPON the humble Desire of the General Court-Marshal, His Majesty has been pleased to Order, That all Complaints against any Officer or Soldier in His Majesty's Pay, shall be first carried to the respective Colonel or Officer in Chief, with the Regiment, Troop, or Company, to which the said Officer or Soldier belongs; before the Complainant applies himself to the Court Marshal.