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14.

From Saturday June 11. to Tuesday June 13. 1720.

Westminster, June 11.

THE Parliament was this Day prorogued to Thursday the 28th Day of July next.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION,

For putting in Execution an Act for the better securing certain Powers and Privileges intended to be granted by His Majesty by two Charters for Assurance of Ships and Merchandizes at Sea, and for lending Money upon Bottomry; and for restraining several extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned.

GEORGE R.

*W*Hereas in and by an Act made in the last Session of Parliament [Intituled, An Act for better securing certain Powers and Privileges intended to be granted by His Majesty by two Charters for Assurance of Ships and Merchandizes at Sea, and for lending Money upon Bottomry; and for restraining several extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned] reciting, that several Projects of different Kinds have, since the four and twentieth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and eighteen, been publicly contrived and practised, within the City of London, and other Parts of this Kingdom, as also in Ireland, and other our Dominions, which manifestly tend to the common Grievance of our Subjects in their Trade, and other their Affairs; and the Persons contriving or attempting such mischievous Projects, under false pretences of publick Good, had presumed to open Books for publick Subscriptions, and draw in unwary Persons to subscribe therein towards raising great Sums of Money, whereupon the Subscribers or Claimants under them, paid small Proportions thereof; which mischievous Projects related to several Fisheries and other Affairs, wherein the Trade and Welfare of our Subjects were concerned; and re-

citig, that in many Cases the said Undertakers or Subscribers had since the said twenty fourth Day of June, presumed to act as if they were corporate Bodies, and had pretended to make their Shares in Stocks transferrable without legal Authority; and in some Cases the Undertakers or Subscribers had acted, or pretended to act under some Charter or Charters formerly granted for some particular Purposes, but had used the same for raising Joine Stocks, and for making pretended Transfers or Assignments for their own private Lucre; and in some Cases the Undertakers or Subscribers had acted under some obsolete Charter or Charters, although the same became void or voidable by Nonuser or Abuser, or for want of making lawful Elections, which were necessary for the Continuance thereof; and many other unwarrantable Practices had been, and might thereafter be contrived to the Ruin of many of our good Subjects, if a timely Remedy were not provided; and reciting further, that it was become absolutely necessary, that all publick Undertakings and Attempts, tending to the common Grievance and Prejudice of our Subjects in their Trade or other lawful Affairs, should be effectually suppressed by suitable and adequate Punishments for that Purpose to be established: Therefore for suppressing such mischievous and dangerous Undertakings and Attempts, and preventing the like for the future it is in and by the said Act enacted, that from and after the twenty fourth Day of June, One thousand seven hundred and twenty, all and every the Undertakings and Attempts described, as aforesaid, and all other publick Undertakings and Attempts, tending to the common Grievance, Prejudice and Inconvenience of our Subjects in their Trade, Commerce, or other lawful Affairs; and all publick Subscriptions, Receipts, Payments, Assignments, Transfers, pretended Assignments and Transfers, and all other Matters and Things whatsoever, for furthering, countenancing, or proceeding in any such Undertaking or Attempt; and more particularly the acting, or presuming to act as a corporate Body or Bodies, the raising or pretending to raise transferrable Stock