

to His Majesty in waiting. Which Address His Majesty was pleas'd to receive very graciously, and they had all the Honour to kiss His Majesty's Hand.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty,

Most Gracious Sovereign,

THE Corporation of the Governour and Company of Merchants of Great Britain, Trading to the South-Seas, and other Parts of America, and for encouraging the Fishery, in a General Court assembled, crave Leave to express their great and more immediate Concern for the Death of your Royal Father, as he was their late Governour, and Protector.

They, with most sensible Joy, congratulate your Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne: And your Majesty having always shewn a just Regard to the Prosperity of Trade and Commerce, the known Fountains of the Wealth, Power, and Grandeur of this Nation, they hope that your Majesty will take them under your Royal Countenance and Protection.

They therefore assuring great Advantages to themselves under your Majesty's Influence, do in the most humble and dutiful Manner, beseech your Majesty, that you will be graciously pleas'd to condescend to be their Governour.

By Order of the General Court,

John Eyles, Sub-Governour,

John Rudge, Deputy-Governour,

His Majesty was graciously pleas'd to say, *That He accepted the Offer made to him, and that the Company might depend upon His Protection.*

AT the Court at St. James's, the 5th Day of July 1727.

P R E S E N T.

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council, This Day the Right Honourable Charles Lord Viscount Townshend one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, took the Oath of Secretary of State, pursuant to the Act of the Sixth of Queen Anne.

This Day the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Grantham, Lord Chamberlain to her Majesty, was by His Majesty's Command, Sworn of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and took his Place at the Board accordingly.

Madrid, June 30. N. S. On the 20th Instant, the Marquess de la Paz wrote to the Conde de las Torres, General of the Army before Gibraltar, and at the same Time M. Vander Meer the Dutch Ambassadour wrote to the Earl of Portmore Governour of that Place, to acquaint them, that the Preliminary Articles for a general Pacification were signed at Paris the 31st past. On the 28th Instant, an Express arriv'd from the Conde de las Torres, with an Account, that he had agreed with the Earl

of Portmore on a Cessation of Hostilities. M. Vander Meer having also written to Sir Charles Wager, at his Station off Cadiz, to acquaint him with the Signing of the said Preliminaries, Advice is come from that Admiral, that he had given Direction to forbear all Hostilities by Sea. This Day the Marquess de Castelat has signified by a Letter to M. Vander Meer, that the King of Spain has commanded him to dispatch Orders forthwith to all the Ports of Spain, and to those of the West Indies by an Advice Boat from Cadiz, for the forbearance of all Hostilities on the Part of his Catholick Majesty.

Whitehall, July 8.

Yesterday arriv'd the Right Honourable the Lord Vere Beauclair, Commander of His Majesty's Ship the Lyme, dispatched the 18th of last Month from Gibraltar by Sir Charles Wager, with an Account, that he having received Advice from M. Vander Meer at Madrid of the Signing of the Preliminaries, had ordered the Ships under his Command to forbear all Acts of Hostility; the Spaniards at Cadiz and in the Bay of Gibraltar having done the like. With the Lord Vere Beauclair arriv'd likewise the Lord Henry Beauclair, and the Lord Charles Hay; the latter being sent by the Earl of Portmore Governour of Gibraltar with Advice that a Cessation of Arms had been agreed between the said Governour and the Conde de las Torres General of the Spanish Army.

G E O R G E R.

Whereas it hath been represented unto us, That many and great Inconveniencies have arisen amongst our Forces, for want of an exact Register of the Dates of all Officers Commissions, by Vertue whereof they have or may take Rank in our Army; Our Will and Pleasure is, That the Officers of our Army, wheresoever now employed, whose Commissions are not already Register'd, do enter the same with our Secretary at War, and with our Commissary General of the Musters, in the Space of Six Months, from the Date hereof, pursuant to the 24th Article of War, which requires, that all Commissions granted by us, to any Officers in Pay, shall be brought to the Commissary of the Musters and Secretary at War, who are to receive and enter the same in a Book, fairly writen; and that no Commission Officer shall be allowed in Muster without a Commission from us, and the same enter'd with the Commissary General of the Musters, or his Deputies, and Secretary at War: And such Officers who have now Commissions in our Army, and do not enter the same as aforesaid, shall, for such Neglect, lose the Benefit of such Rank as they may be entitled to by Vertue of their respective Commissions. And all Officers who are now Abroad in our Service, are to transmit to our said Secretary at War, and our said Commissary General, Authentick Certificates of the Dates of their Commissions, signed by the Commander in Chief under whom they serve, or by any of our Deputy Commissaries of the Musters, And our Secretary at War, our Commissary General, and all the Officers now in our Army, are required to take Notice hereof, and govern themselves accordingly. Given at Our Court at St. James's, this 4th Day of June, 1727. In the First Year of Our Reign.

H. Pelham.

War-Office, July 1, 1727.

Whereas it hath been represented to the King, that there hath been a great Desertion from His Land For-