

The London Gazette.

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From Tuesday July 16. to Saturday July 20. 1734.

By the KING,
A PROCLAMATION,

For putting in Execution the Laws made against wilfully and maliciously pulling down or destroying Turnpikes for repairing Highways, erected by Authority of Parliament, and for apprehending and bringing to Justice any Persons who have been, or shall be Guilty of Offences of this Sort.

G E O R G E R.

WHEREAS it hath been represented to us, that several ill designing and disorderly Persons, have of late, in a tumultuous and riotous Manner, assembled themselves, both by Day and Night, in our Counties of Gloucester and Hereford, and have cut down and destroyed several of the Turnpikes for repairing the Highways in the said Counties, erected by Authority of Parliament, and have pulled down the Dwelling House of one of the Turnpike-Keepers, and have made publick and open Declaration, that they would proceed to pull down several other Turnpikes; and that if any of the Commissioners should attempt to set up the Turnpikes again, they would pull down their Houses, and would cut down the Turnpikes as often as they should be set up. And whereas such Attempts to remove and destroy Turnpikes in General, are by the Laws of this Kingdom High Treason. And whereas by an Act of Parliament made in the Fifth Year of our Reign, entitled, An Act to explain amend and render more effectual, an Act passed in the First Year of his present Majesty's Reign, entitled, An Act for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully and maliciously pull down or destroy Turnpikes for repairing Highways, or Locks or other Works erected by Authority of Parliament for making Rivers Navigable, it is, amongst other Things, enacted, that if any Person or Persons whatsoever, from and after the Twenty Fourth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and thirty two, shall either by Day or Night, wilfully and maliciously break down, cut down, pluck up, throw down, level or otherwise destroy any Turnpike Gate or Turnpike Gates, or any Post or Posts, Rail or Rails, Wall or Walls, or other Fence or Fences, belonging to any such Turnpike Gate or Turnpike Gates, erected or to be erected to prevent Passengers from passing by without paying the Toll, directed to be paid by any Act or Acts of Parliament already made or hereafter to be made for that Purpose,

and shall be lawfully convicted of the same upon Indictment before any of his Majesty's Justices of Assize, Oyer and Terminer and general Goal Delivery for the County, City, Town, Borough or Corporation where such Offence or Offences shall be committed, every such Person and Persons so offending, and being thereof lawfully convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and every such Felon and Felons shall be subject and liable to like Pains and Penalties as in Cases of Felony, and the Courts by and before whom such Person or Persons shall be tryed, shall and hereby have Power and Authority to transport such Felons for the Space of Seven Years in like Manner as other Felons are directed to be transported by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm: And it is further enacted, that if such Offender or Offenders shall return into Great Britain or Ireland, before the Expiration of the said Term of Seven Years, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning hereof, or of the said Act passed in the First Year of his present Majesty's Reign, (intituled, An Act for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully and maliciously pull down or destroy Turnpikes for repairing Highways, or Locks, or other Works erected by the Authority of Parliament for making Rivers Navigable,) he or they so returning shall suffer Death as Felons, and have Execution awarded against them as Persons attainted of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy. We therefore being deeply sensible of the many mischievous Consequences which must inevitably ensue to the Peace of this our Kingdom, and the Properties of our loving Subjects, from such wicked and detestable Practices, are firmly resolved to cause the said Laws to be effectually put in Execution. And being desirous out of our fatherly Tenderness to our People, that none of them should be ignorant of the same, nor unwarily subject themselves to the Penalties thereby inflicted; we have thought fit, with the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby strictly command, that no Person or Persons whatsoever do presume to commit or attempt any Act, Matter or Thing whatsoever contrary to the said Laws, and the true Intent and Meaning thereof, and that the said Laws be punctually observed and kept, upon Pain of the several Penalties by the said Laws inflicted upon Offenders against the same. And we do further strictly command and require all our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Under Sheriffs, and Civil Officers whatsoever, and all other our Subjects, that they do use their utmost Endeavours to discover and apprehend all such Persons as have been,

[Price Two Pence.]