

[GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, 1702] [1]

**[Proclamation for encouraging virtue
and punishing immorality]**

[1]

By the QUEEN,

A PROCLAMATION,

**For the Encouragement of Piety and Vir-
tue, and for the Preventing and Punishing
of Vice, Prophaneness, and Immorality.**

ANNE R.

WE most Seriously and Religiously Consid-
ering, That it is an Indispensible Duty on
Us, to be Careful, above all other things, to Pre-
serve and Advance the Honour and Service of
Almighty God, and to Discourage and Suppress all
Vice, Prophaneness, 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
Practicers thereof) have so Fatal a Tendency to the
Corruption of many of Our Loving Subjects, oth-
erwise Religiously and Virtuously Disposed, and
which (if not timely Remedied) may justly draw
down the Divine Vengeance on Us and Our King-
doms:

We also humbly Acknowledging, That We can-
not expect the Blessing and Goodness of Almighty
God (by whom Kings and Queens Reign) and on
which We entirely Rely) to make Our Reign Hap-
py and Prosperous to Our Self and Our People, nor
hope for the Divine Assistance to Deliver us from
the great and imminent Danger which Our King-
doms, and the True Protestant Religion, Establi-
shed among Us, are in this present Juncture Threat-
ened with, 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 here-
by Declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to
Discourage and Punish all manner of Vice,

Prophaneness 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 greater Encouragement of Reli-
gion 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 Discouraging
Persons of Dissolute and Debauched Lives, that
they being by that means reduced 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 pre-
vent.

And we do hereby strictly Enjoin and Prohibit
all Our Loving Subjects, of what Degree or Qual-
ity soever, from Playing on the Lords Day at Dice,
Cards, or any other Game whatsoever, either in
Publick or Private Houses, or other Place or Places
whatsoever; and do hereby Require and Command
them and every of them Decently and Reverently
to Attend the Worship of God on every Lords 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 of all such
Persons, who by Reason of their Dissolute Lives
and Conversations, are a Scandal to Our Kingdom,
Our further Pleasure is, and We do hereby strictly
Charge and Command all Our Judges, Mayors,
Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our
Officers and Ministers, both Ecclesiastical and
Civil, and all other Our Subjects, whom it may
Concern, to be very Vigilant and Strict in the

[1] *London Gazette*, no. 3796, 26 to 30 March, 1702. (Steele 4314)

Discovery, and the Effectual Prosecution and Punishment of all Persons who shall be Guilty of Excessive Drinking, Blasphemy, Prophan Swearing and Cursing, Lewdness, Prophanation of the Lords Day, or other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices;

and that they take Care also Effectually

to Suppress all Bawdy-Houses, Publick Gaming-Houses and Places, and other Disorderly Houses, and

to put in Execution

the Statute made in the Nine and twentieth Year of the Reign of Our late Royal Uncle King *Charles* the Second, Intituled, *An Act for the better Observation of the Lords Day, commonly called Sunday*, and

also an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of Our late Dear Brother King *William* the Third, Intituled, *An Act for the more Effectual Suppressing of Blasphemy and Prophaneness*, and

all other Laws now in Force for the Punishing and Suppressing any of the Vices aforesaid; and

also to Suppress and Prevent all Gaming whatsoever in Publick or Private Houses on the Lords Day,

and likewise that they take Effectual Care to prevent all Persons Keeping Taverns, Chocolate-Houses, Coffee-Houses, or other Publick Houses whatsoever, from Selling Wine, Chocolate, Coffee, Ale, Beer, or other Liquors, or receiving or permitting Guests to be or remain in such their Houses in the Time of Divine Service on the Lords Day, as they will answer it to Almighty God, and upon Pain of Our highest Displeasure.

And for the more Effectual proceeding herein, We do hereby Direct and Command all Our Judges of Assize, and Justices of the Peace, to give strict Charges at their respective Assizes and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment

of all Persons that shall presume to Offend in any the kinds aforesaid, and

also of all Persons that, contrary to their Duty, shall be Remiss or Negligent in putting the said Laws in Execution;

and that they do at their respective Assizes and Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, cause this Our Proclamation to be publicly Read in open Court immediately before the Charge is given.

And We do hereby further Charge and Command every Minister in his respective Parish-Church or Chapel, to Read or cause to be Read this Our Proclamation, at least Four times in every Year, immediately after Divine Service, and to incite and stir up their respective Auditors to the Practice of Piety and Virtue, and the Avoiding of all Immorality and Prophaneness.

And to the end that all Vice and Debauchery may be prevented, and Religion and Virtue practised by all Officers, Private Soldiers, Mariners, and others, who are Employed in Our Service, by Sea or Land, We do hereby strictly Charge and Command all our Commanders and Officers whatsoever, That they do take Care to avoid all Prophaneness, Debauchery, and other Immoralities, and that by their own Good and Virtuous Lives and Conversations, they do set good Examples to all such as are under their Care and Authority, and likewise take Care of, and Inspect the Behaviour of all such as are under them, and to Punish all those who shall be Guilty of any the Offences aforesaid, as they will be Answerable for the Ill Consequences of their Neglect herein.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the Twenty sixth Day of *March*, 1702. In the First Year of Our Reign.