

[GOVERNMENT OF ENGLAND, 1692] [1]

[Proclamation for punishing immorality]

[1]

By the King and Queen,**A PROCLAMATION,****Against Vitious, Debauch'd, and Profane Persons.***WILLIAM R.*

As We cannot but be deeply sensible of the great Goodness and Mercy of Almighty GOD (by whom Kings Reign) in giving so happy Success to Our Endeavours for the Rescuing these Kingdoms from Popish Tyranny and Superstition, and in Preserving Our Royal Persons, Supporting Our Government, and Uniting the Arms of most of the Princes and States in Christendom against Our common Enemy;

So We are not less touched with a Resentment, that (notwithstanding these Great Deliverances) Impiety and Vice do still abound in this Our Kingdom: And that the Execution of many good Laws, which have been made for Suppressing and Punishing thereof, have been grossly Neglected, to the great Dishonour of GOD and Our Holy Religion:

Wherefore, and for that, We cannot expect Increase or Continuance of the Blessings We and Our Subjects Enjoy, without providing Remedies to prevent the like Evils for the future, We judge Our Selves bound, by the Duty We owe to GOD, and the Care We have of the People committed to Our Charge, to proceed in taking some Effectual Course therein:

And being thereunto moved by the Pious Addresses of Our Arch-Bishops and Bishops, We have thought fit, by the Advice of Our Privy Council, to Issue this Our Royal Proclamation, and do declare Our Princely Intention and Resolution, to Discountenance all manner of Vice and Immoral-

ity in all Persons from the Highest to the Lowest Degree in this Our Realm.

And We do hereby for that purpose straightly Require, Charge and Command all and singular Our Judges, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all other Our Officers, Ecclesiastical and Civil, in their respective Stations to Execute the Laws against Blasphemy, Profane Swearing and Curfing, Drunkenness, Lewdness, Profanation of the Lords-Day, or any other Dissolute, Immoral or Disorderly Practices, as they will answer it to Almighty GOD, and upon Pain of Our Highest Displeasure.

And for the more Effectual Proceedings herein, We do hereby Direct and Command Our Judges of Assizes, and Justices of Peace to give strict Charges at the 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.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the One and twentieth Day of *January*, 169½. In the Third Year of Our Reign. [2]

[1] *London Gazette*, no. 2736, 28 January to 1 February, 1691. This was the legal year, what we today might call the fiscal year, which began on 25 March, and was still 1691 for official purposes. The calendar year beginning on 1 January was 1692. (Steele 4076).

[2] 1692. King William and Queen Mary were joint sovereigns. By modern calendar years their third regnal year was 13 February 1691 to 12 February 1692.