

[GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, 1860] [1]

[23 Victoria]

**[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, Profaneness, and Immorality.**

VICTORIA R.

WE most seriously and religiously consider-
ing that it is Our indispensable Duty to be
careful above all other Things, to preserve and
advance the Honour and Service of Almighty
God, and to discourage and suppress all Vice,
Profaneness, Debauchery, and Immorality, which
are so highly displeasing to God and so great a
Reproach to Our Religion and Government:

To the Intent, therefore, that Religion, Piety, and
Good Manners may 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 hereby
declare Our Royal Purpose and Resolution to dis-
countenance and punish all Manner of Vice, Pro-
faneness, and Immorality, in all Persons of what-
soever Degree or Quality within this Our Realm:

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 discountenancing
Persons of dissolute and immoral Lives:

And We do hereby strictly enjoin and prohibit
all Our loving Subjects, of what Degree or Quality
soever, from playing, on the Lord's Day, at Dice,
Cards, or any other Game whatsoever, either in
Public or Private houses, or other Place or Places
whatsoever:

and We do hereby require and command them,
and every of them, decently and reverently to
attend the Worship of God on every Lord's Day:

Our further pleasure is, and We do hereby strict-
ly 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 Dis-
covery and the effectual Prosecution and Punish-
ment of all Persons who shall be guilty of disso-
lute, immoral, or disorderly Practices;

and that they take care also effectually

to suppress all Public Gaming Houses and Plac-
es, and lewd and other disorderly Houses; and

also to suppress and prevent all Gaming whatso-
ever, in Public or Private Houses, on the Lord's
Day;

and likewise that they take effectual Care to pre-
vent all Persons keeping Taverns, or other Public
Houses whatsoever, from selling Wine, 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 Lord's Day.

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
of 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
Royal Proclamation to be publicly read in open
Court, immediately before the Charge is given.

Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, this
Ninth Day of June, One thousand eight hundred
and sixty.

GOD save the QUEEN.

[1] *London Gazette*, no. 22395, 15 June 1860, p 2262.