

By the King. A proclamation for the further adiournment of Michaelmasse Terme [from the City of Westminster to the town of Reading in consequence of the plague. 11 Oct. 1625].

Contributors

Charles I, King of England, 1600-1649.

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BY THE KING.

A Proclamation for the further adiournment of *Michaelmasse Terme.*

Hereas our gracious Soueraigne Lord the Kings Maiestie, taking into His Princely consideration the health and safety of His louing Subiects, and how much they might be indangered by the great and generall infection of the Plague, which hath beene long in the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the places nere adioyning, if by their seruices, suits, or other causes occasioned by the Terme they should be dravne thither before that heavy visitation should by the mercy of God be remoued: Did therefore by His Royall Proclamation dated the fourth day of September now last past signifie His pleasure, That part of the Terme of *S. Michael* then next comming should be adourned; That is to say, from the *Vtas* thereof vnto the fourth returne of the same Terme called *Mense Michaelis*. Now His Majesty foreseeing, that although by Gods mercy that grievous sicknes is much asswaged in those Cities and parts adioyning, yet the danger thereof would be very great to His whole Kingdome, in dispersing the infection, and would longer continue the perill thereof in those places already infected by the concourse of so many from all parts of the Kingdome, whom the busineses of the Terme must necessarily draw together; Doth therefore hereby declare His pleasure to be, That at the said returne called *Mense Michaelis*, the said Terme be againe adourned vntill the next returne after, being the fifth returne of the said Terme called *Crastino Animarum*, and that at the said adournment the Terme be also adourned from the City of *Westminster*, vnto the Towne of *Reading*, in the Countie of *Berke*, and there continued for the residue of the said Terme, where His Will is, that all His louing Subiects of this Realme, whom it may any way concerne, doe take notice. And His Majesties pleasure is, That one of His Iustices of either Bench on that day of *Mense Michaelis*, according to the ancient order of the Lawes, keepe the Eshoynes of the said returne of *Mense Michaelis*, at which time Writs of adournment (which His Majesty hereby commandeth the Lord Keeper of His Great Seale of *England* to make forth) shalbe directed to the said Iustices, giuing them authority to make such further adournment as aforesaid. And further His Majesties pleasure is, that all matters, causes and suits depending in any of His other Courts of Star-chamber, Exchequer, Courts of Wards & Liveries, Dutchie of Lancaster, and Court of Requests shall haue continuance, and the parties shall haue day from the said fourth Returne called *Mense Michaelis*, vntill the said fifth Returne called *Crastino Animarum*. And whereas His Majesty by His said former Proclamation did direct, That all Collectors, Sheriffes, and other Accomptants, and all other persons that should or ought to accompt for, or pay any summe or summes of money in any of His Majesties Courts of Exchequer, Courts of Wards and Liveries, and of His Dutchie of Lancaster, or in any of them, or to enter into any accompt in any of the said Courts, should reaire vnto His Majesties house of *Richmond*, as though no such Proclamation of adiournment had beene had or made; Now His Majesties pleasure is, and he doth hereby direct and command, that at and from the said Returne of *Crastino Animarum*, all Collectors, Receiuers, Sheriffes, and other accomptants, and all other persons that should or ought to accompt for or pay any summe or summes of money in any of the places aforesaid, shall giue their attendance at the Towne of *Reading* aforesaid, and there make their payments, and enter into, and prosecute their accompts, as they ought to haue done at the Receipt at *Westminster*. And lest the ouer-hastie resort of Strangers to the said Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and places nere adioyning, and the intercourse of trade betweene those Cities and places adioyning, and other Cities, Townes, and places of this Kingdome more remote, might be an occasion of spreading the infection into other parts and places not yet infected, and of continuing it the longer where it is already, which would hinder his Majesties reaire to those Cities, and be an impediment to other matters of importance, for the benefite and comfort of those Cities, whereas the forbearance for a while might availle to their mutuall good and safetie. His Majesty doth hereby not onely advise, but straitly charge and command all persons, whose proper habitations are not in those Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or places nere adioyning, to forbear to reside there, or resort thither. And that all Carriers either by Land or by Water, with horse, Wayne, Cart, Waggon, Boat, Barge, or other Vessell, doe forbear to carry any wares, merchandize, or other things (other then victuals onely) vnto, or from the said Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or Suburbs thereof, vntill the perill of the contagion be better past ouer, and by the coldnes of the weather the Aire be cleansed, and the danger remoued, and his Majesties further pleasure be knowne herein. And lest the said Towne of *Reading*, which is now free from the sicknesse, may it selfe be indangered, or indanger others resorting thither by fetching of wares from places now or lately infected; His Majesty doth straitly charge and command all and euery the Inhabitants of the said Towne, and all other places within three miles thereof, that they wholly forbear to buy or receiue any wares or merchandize from the said Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, or places adioyning, or from any other place now or lately infected with that contagious sicknes, vntill the end of the said Terme of *S. Michael* the soonest. And his Majesty doth straitly charge and command the Maior of the said Towne of *Reading*, and the Iustices of peace inhabiting within the hundreds of *Reading*, *Burning*, and *Thele* in the said Countie of *Berke*, that they with all diligence see his Majesties pleasure obserued herein. Given at the Court at *Salisbury* the eleuenth day of *October*, in the first yeare our raigne of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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