

ARTICLE I.

THAT in all the Corporations of the District of *Montauban*, comprised in the State of the Divisions (called *Arrondissements*), which shall be immediately drawn up by the Intendant of the said District, whom his Majesty has authorized and does authorize for that Purpose, all the new Converts, inhabiting within the Extent of the Divisions, shall be responsible for all the Assemblies which shall be held upon the Territory of the Corporations, whereof each Division shall be composed.

II.

THE new Converts, Inhabitants of the Divisions, in the Extent of which it shall be proved that some Assemblies have been held, shall be condemned without any Trial, or even Hearing, by the said Intendant, to pay an arbitrary Fine, proportioned to their Ability; and also to pay the Charges of the Proceedings, which shall have been had, on Account of the said Assemblies; and the Assessments of the Fines and Charges shall be made by him, on the Knowledge he shall have of them, upon all the new converted Inhabitants, who shall be found comprised in the Lists of the Capitation, or Poll-Tax, in all the Corporations of the Division.

III.

HIS Majesty wills, that those of the new Converts, who perform their Duty as Catholics, and shall justify it by Certificates from their Bishops or Grand Vicars, importing that they frequent the Church and Sacraments, and that they have, for three preceding and successive Years, at least, regularly performed all their paschal Duties, shall not be comprehended in the abovesaid Assessments, unless there be Proof against them of their having attended at, or favoured the said Assemblies.

IV.

THE new Converts of a Corporation of any Division, within the Extent of which an Assembly shall be held, who shall give Advice and furnish Proof of it, shall likewise be excepted in the Assessment; and when the said Advices shall have been given, time enough, to surprize the Assembly, all the People of that Corporation shall be discharged of the Fines, and their Portion thrown upon the rest of the Division.

V.

IF any Assembly be held upon the Territory of a Corporation wholly composed of old Catholics, and not comprehended in the State of the Divisions, the Fine in that Case shall be born by the Divisions that are the nearest to the Place where such Assembly shall be held, in the Manner as shall be regulated and ordered by the said Intendant.

VI.

IF it happens that any Assembly be held upon a Ground that is doubtful, and contested between some Corporations of the Divisions, and some other Corporations of other Divisions, the Fines in that Case shall be born by the Divisions which are nearest to the contested Ground, in the Manner as shall likewise be regulated and ordered by the said Intendant.

VII.

ALL private Persons, comprehended in the Lists of Assessment, who shall be fined, shall be forced to the Payment of their Rates, by actual settled Garrisons.

VIII.

AND whereas the Preachers who come from abroad, or are brought up in the Country, and who are the principal Authors of all the Assemblies, could not keep them up, if they were not secretly admitted and maintained in the Houses of the new Converts, which is a Thing intirely opposite to the Prohibition of the said Edicts; nor, will it be by such Edicts, that

the Limits of which a Preacher may be arrested, shall be determined in a Fine of 3000 Livres, to be given to the Informers who shall have procured his being taken up; and this, intirely dependently of the Suit, which shall be made and carried on agreeable to the Rigour of the former Ordonnances, Edicts, and Declarations, against him, in whose House the Preacher shall have been found.

IX.

HIS Majesty does not intend, by the present Ordonnance, to derogate from the Dispositions of the Edicts, Declarations, Decrees, and Ordonnances, published upon the Subject of the said Assemblies, and particularly from that of the 11th of the present Month and Year, which shall be all executed according to their Form and Tenor. His Majesty orders and requires the said Intendant of the District of *Montauban*, to see to the Execution of the present Ordonnance, which shall be published, and posted up where-ever it shall be necessary, that no one may ever pretend Cause of Ignorance. Done at *Verfailles*, the 16th of *February*, 1745.

And lower,

Signed, Louis
By the King,
PHELYPEAUX

THE Injustice and Cruelty of such Declarations are so obvious, that every one must be struck with them; however, in order they should be executed in their fullest Extent, the Court hath sent into the District of *Montauban*, and Places adjacent, the favourite Missionaries, several Troops of Dragoons, who acting like themselves, have committed the most outrageous Violences, and the most unheard-of Excesses, and have reduced upwards of 6000 Souls to Beggary, and the City of *Montauban* to a more miserable Condition than ever it knew, even after the Wars it has several Times been obliged to maintain in it's own Defence. This occasioned several Thousand Men, filled with Despair, to retire into the Woods, to defend a Life there, which they should be sure to lose, if they remained in the open Country. Resistance is either never to be admitted, or it must be in such Circumstances as these. Nature authorizes it. Reason prompts to it.

*En quod VIOLENTIA Civis
Perduxit miseris!*
Tantum Religio potuit suadere malorum!

BESIDES, Persecution rageth in *Dauphiny*; the Prisons there are filled with Protestants, who have been taken up for being found in Assemblies; several have been outlawed; almost every where they endeavour to secure their Lives by Flight. The 16th of *February*, a Minister, named *Roux*, was arrested in the Borough of *Livron*, put into Prison, and loaded with Fetters; the 12th of *March* he was hanged in the City of *Die*: After the Execution, they cut off his Head, and exposed it in the Place where he had been taken; an Example of Cruelty unheard of 'til now. Others have been condemned to suffer Pains of an extraordinary Severity; and amongst others, one named *Raille*, of *Osse*, near *Cret*, who, for having performed the Office of Reader in an Assembly, has lately been condemned by the Parliament of *Grenoble*, to be whipped by the Hands of the Hangman, marked, and sent to the Gallies for Life; which was to have been executed the 15th of *March*.

We expect every Day to have farther Accounts of these tragical Examples. And it seems necessary, on many Accounts, that we should not be intirely ignorant of them in this Country.

SUCH is the Situation of Catholic *France*, under the Reign of *Louis* the XVth. It was not, without Doubt, by Declarations which have such fatal Effects, that, that Prince acquired the