

secure the superiority of the French Forces in those Parts, and enable them to carry their ambitious and oppressive projects into Execution.

In these Circumstances we could not but think it incumbent upon us to endeavour to prevent the Success of so dangerous a Design, and to oppose the Landing of the French Troops in America; and in consequence of the just and necessary Measures we had taken for that purpose, the French Ambassadors were recalled immediately from our Court: the Fortifications at Dunkirk which had been repairing for some time, were enlarged; great Bodies of Troops marched down to the Coast, and our Kingdoms were threatened with an Invasion.

In order to prevent the Execution of these Designs, and to provide for the Security of our Kingdoms, which were thus threatened we could no longer forbear giving Orders for the seizing at Sea the Ships of the French King, and his Subjects: notwithstanding which as we were still willing to give up all Hopes that an Accommodation might be effected we have contented ourselves hitherto with detaining the said Ships, and preserving them, and as far as was possible their Cargoes entire, without proceeding to the Confiscation of them; but it being now evident by the hostile Invasion actually made by the French King of our Island of Minorca, that it is the determined Resolution of that Court to push on to no Terms of Peace, but to carry on the War which has been long begun on their Part, with the utmost Violence: we can no longer remain, consistently with what we owe to our own Honour, and to the Welfare of our Subjects within those Bounds, which, from a Desire of Peace, we had hitherto observed.

We have therefore thought proper to declare War; and we do hereby declare War against the French King, who hath so unjustly begun it, relying on the Help of Almighty God in our just Undertaking, and being assured of the hearty Concurrence and Assistance of our Subjects in support of so good a Cause: hereby willing and requiring our Captain General of our Forces, our Commissioners for executing the Office of our high Admirals of Great Britain, our Lieutenants of our several Counties, Governors of our Towns and Garrisons, and all other Officers and Soldiers under them by Sea and Land, to and execute all Acts of Hostility, in the prosecution of this War against the French King his Vassals and Subjects, and to oppose their Attempts: willing and requiring our Subjects to take notice of the same whom we hereby strictly forbid to hold any Correspondence or Communication with the said French King or his Subjects: And we do hereby command our own Subjects, and advertise all other Persons of what Nature soever not to transport or carry any Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition or other contraband Goods to any of the Territories, Lands, Plantations, or Countries of the said French King, declaring that whatsoever Ship or Vessel shall be met withal transporting or carrying any Soldiers, Arms, Powder, Ammunition, or any other contraband Goods, to any of the Territories, Lands, Plantations, or Countries of the said French King, the same being taken shall be condemned as good and lawful Prey.

And whereas there are remaining in our Kingdom divers of the Subjects of the French King, we do hereby declare our Royal Intention to be that all the said Subjects who shall remain their Obedience dutifully towards us shall be safe in their Persons and Effects.

Witness our hand at Versailles the 17th Day of August in the 27th Year of our said King: God save the King.