

A PROCLAMATION concerning the Postmaster of England for Forraigne Parts.

Whereas his Majestie's Father, King James, of happy memory, for urgent causes did constitute an office, called the Office of Postmaster of England for Forraigne Parts, being out of his dominions, to be exercised by some meete persons, to be appointed by the King's Majesty, that should have the sole taking up, sending, and conveying of all packets and letters concerning his service, and of all other packets and letters the carriage and conveying whereof had been belonging to any postmaster into forraigne parts, with power to take moderate salaries, and graunted that office to Mathewe de Quester, and Mathewe de Quester his sun, for their lives.

And by occasion that others intromitted in the execution of the said place, taking upon them to take up letters and to send them into forraigne parts, it was resolved by his late Majestie's Councill, that they ought not therein to intermeddle; and thereupon his Majesty did publicly prohibite all others, that they should not, directly or indirectly, exercise or intrude themselves to have any employment in or about anything which ought to be done by the said officers, and commaunded those of his Honourable Councill, and others, to be ayding to the said postmasters and their deputies, and to hinder the proceedings of all intruders and disavowed persons, which should presume to attempt or go about, directly or indirectly, to do or execute any thing contrary to his Majestie's pleasure therein declared;

Sithence which the said Mathewe, the sonne, dyed, and the said Mathewe de Quester, the father, his Majestie's postmaster for forraigne parts, being aged and infirm, did make and substitute William Frizell and Thomas Witherings his deputies, to do all things apperteyning to his office;

And his Majesty, takeing notice of the abilities and trustiness of the said deputies in the execution of their said office, hath been well pleased to accept and approve of that substiuttion; and the said William Frizell and Thomas Witherings have fatthfully and diligently attended the execution of the said office, as well as in taking up, receiving, carefull and just delivery, and dispersing of letters sent from parts beyond the seas, as in transmitting them into these parts;

And divers principall merchants of the English nation, under their hands, have made certificate to its Majesty, that they conceive them fit and able for that place, praying his Majesty to continue them, not suffering strangers to make their choice, which would be to their great prejudice.

Our said Sovereign Lord the King, affecting the welfare of his people, and taking into his Princely consideration how much it import his state and this realm, that the secrets thereof be not disclosed to forraigne nations, which cannot be prevented if a promiscuous use of transmitting or taking up of forraigne letters and packets should be suffered, which will also be no small prejudice to his said merchants in their trading;

His Majesty therefore doth straightly charge and command all his people, as well aliens as denizens, that none of them, other than the said William Frizell and Thomas Witherings, presume to take up or transmit such forraigne packets or letters, or exercise that (which) to the office of Postmaster for Forraigne Parts, out of his Majestys dominions, in any sort pertaineth; and that none of them, in receiving, taking, or transmitting such letters, [or] shall exercise that which to the office of such postmaster pertaineth, at their utmost perils.

Given at the Court at Oatlands, the 19th day of July, in the 8th year of the Raigne of Our Sovereaign Lord, Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Per ipsum Regem.

Royal Proclamation of Charles I (19th July 1632)