

The London Gazette.

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White-hall, Sept. 8.

THe ordinary course of this Paper having been interrupted by a sad and lamentable accident of Fire lately hapned in the City of London: It hath been thought fit for satisfying the minds of so many of His Majesties good Subjects, who must needs be concerned for the Issue of so great an accident, to give this short, but true Account of it.

On the second instant at one of the clock in the Morning there hapned to break out a sad & deplorable Fire, in *Padding-lane* near *New Fishstreet*, which falling out at that hour of the night, and in a quarter of the Town so close built with wooden pitched houses, spread it self so far before day, and with such distraction to the Inhabitants and Neighbours, that care was not taken for the timely preventing the further diffulion of it by pulling down houses, as ought to have been; so that this lamentable Fire in a short time became too big to be mastered by any Engines or working near it. It fell out most unhappily too, That a violent Easterly wind fomented it, and kept it burning all that day, and the night following spreading it self up to *Grace-church-street*, and downwards from *Cannon-freee* to the *Water-side* as far as the *Three Cranes in the Vintry*.

The people in all parts about it distracted by the vastness of it, and their particular care to carry away their Goods, many attempts were made to prevent the spreading of it, by pulling down Houses, and making great Intervalls, but all in vain, the Fire seising upon the Timber and Rubbish, and so continuing it self, even through those spaces, and raging in a bright Flame all Monday and Tuesday, notwithstanding His Majesties own, and His Royal Highness's indefatigable and personal pains to apply all possible remedies to prevent it, calling upon and helping the people with their Guards, and a great number of Nobility and Gentry unweariedly assisting therein, for which they were requited with a thousand blessings from the poor distressed people. By the favour of God the Wind slackned a little on Tuesday night, and the Flames meeting with Brick-buildings at the Temple, by little and little it was observed to lose its force on that side: so that on Wednesday morning we began to hope well, and his Royal Highness never despairing or slackning his personal care wrought so well that day, assisted in some parts by the Lords of the Council before and behind it, that a stop was put to it at the *Temple Church*, near *Holborn-bridge*, *Pie-corner*, *Aldersgate*, *Cripple-gate*, near the lower end of *Colemanstreet*, at the end of *Basing hall street*, by the *Poftern*, at the upper end of *Bishopsgate street*, and *Leadn-bill-street* at the *Stand-ard* in *Cornhill*, at the Church in *Fenchurch street*, near *Clothworkers-hall* in *Mincing-lane*, at the middle of *Mark-lane*, and at the *Tower dock*.

On Thursday by the blessing of God it was wholly beat down and extinguished; but so as that Evening it unhappily burnt out again afresh at the Temple, by the falling of some sparks (as is supposed) upon a Pile of Wooden buildings, but his Royal Highness, who watched there that whole night in Person, by the great labours and diligence used, and especially by applying Powder to blow up the Houses about it, before day most happily mastered it.

Divers Strangers, Dutch and French, were, during the fire, apprehended, upon suspicion that they contributed

mischievously to it, who are all imprisoned, and Informations prepared to make a severe inquisition thereupon by my Lord Chief Justice *Keeling*, assisted by some of the Lords of the Privy Council, and some principal Members of the City; notwithstanding which suspensions, the manner of the burning all along in a Train, and so blown forwards in all its way by strong winds, makes us conclude the whole was an effect of an unhappy chance, or to speak better, the heavy hand of God upon us for our sins, showing us the terroure of his Judgment in thus raising the fire, and immediately after, his miraculous and never enough to be acknowledged Mercy in putting a stop to it when we were in the last despair, and that all attempts for the quenching it, however industriously pursued, seemed insufficient. His Majesty then sat hourly in Council, and ever since hath continued making rounds about the City in all parts of it where the danger and mischief was greatest, till this morning that he hath sent his Grace the Duke of *Abermarle*, whom he hath called for to assist him in this great occasion, to put his happy and successful hand to the finishing this memorable deliverance.

About the Tower the seasonable orders given for plucking down Houses to secure the Magazines of Powder, was more especially successful, that part being up the Wind, notwithstanding which it came almost to the very Gates of it, so as by this early provision, the several stores of War lodged in the Tower were entirely saved: And we have further this infinite cause particularly to give God thanks that the fire did not happen in any of those places where his Majesties Naval stores are kept, so as tho it hath pleased God to visit us with his own hand, he hath not, by disfurnishing us with the means of carrying on the War, subjected us to our enemies.

It must be observed, that this fire happened in a part of the Town, where tho the Commodities were not very rich, yet they were so bulky that they could not well be removed, so that the Inhabitants of that part where it first began have sustained very great loss, but by the best enquiry we can make, the other parts of the Town, where the Commodities were of greater value, took the Alarm so early, that they saved most of their Goods of value, which possibly may have diminished the loss, tho some think, that if the whole industry of the Inhabitants had been applied to the stopping of the fire, and not to the saving of their particular Goods, the success might have been much better, not only to the publick, but to many of them in their own particulars.

Through this sad Accident it is easie to be imagined how many persons were necessitated to remove themselves and Goods into the open fields, where they were forced to continue some time, which could not but work compassion in the beholders; but his Majesties care was most signal in this occasion, who, besides his personal pains, was frequent in consulting all wayes for relieving those distressed persons, which produced so good effect, aswell by his Majesties Proclamations, and the Orders issued to the Neighbour Justices of the Peace to encourage the sending in provisions to the Markets, which are publickly known, as by other directions, that when his Majesty, fearing lest other Orders might not yet have been sufficient, had commanded the Victualler of his Navy to send bread into *Moore-fields* for the relief of the poor, which for the more speedy supply he sent in Bisket out of the Sea stores; it was found that the Markets had

been already so well supplied, that the people, being unaccustomed to that kind of Bread, declined it, and so it was returned in great part to his Majesties Stores again, without any use made of it.

And we cannot but observe, to the confutation of all his Majesties enemies, who endeavour to perswade the world abroad of great parties and disaffection at home against his Majesties Government; That a greater instance of the affections of this City could never be given then hath been now given in this sad and deplorable Accident, when if at any time disorder might have been expected from the losses, distraction, and almost desperation of some persons in their private fortunes, thousands of people not having had habitations to cover them. And yet in all this time it hath been so far from any appearance of designs or attempts against his Majesties Government, that his Majesty and his Royal Brother, out of their care to stop and prevent the fire, frequently exposing their persons with very small attendance in all parts of the Town, sometimes even to be intermixed with those who laboured in the business, yet nevertheless there hath not been observed so much as a murmuring word to fall from any, but on the contrary, even those persons whose losses rendred their conditions most desperate, and to be fit objects of others prayers, beholding those frequent instances of his Majesties care of his people, forgot their own misery, and filled the streets with their prayers for his Majesty, whose trouble they seemed to compassionate before their own.

Edenburg, Aug. 19. Scarce a day passes where in some Prizes are not brought in by our Privateers, amongst the rest, one of them of six Guns has lately seized on a very rich Prize laden with Spices, bound for Denmark, and in her (as 'tis said) a Natural Son of the King of Denmark.

Southwold, Sept. 2. A French Vessel called the *Hope* of *Quelleboesf* laden with 1750 skins of Butter, and 400 Pigs of Lead, was put ashore about a league to the southward of this Town, and split in pieces, but the Goods are most of them saved and preserved for the Owners, it being one of those Vessels that brought over the Lord *Douglas's* Regiment, and was permitted to lade home.

Plymouth, Sept. 2. Yesterday arrived here 7. *Offenders* laden with Salt, &c. from *Rochelle*, from whence they came the 16 of August last, and report the *D. de Beaufort* was then there with his Fleet of about 40 sayls, great and small, Men of war, and Fireships, whereof 3. Dutch; and were making all the preparations they could for the Sea, but their going out was uncertain.

Pendennis, Sept. 3. On Friday morning arrived here *La Sigmoria de la Gratia*, a Venetian Vessel, hired by Mr *Abraham Walwyn* Merchant, who laded Currants and Oyle at *Santo and Gallipoli*, and were bound for London; by the way the Venetians, Malicians, and other Italians, with whom she was mann'd, design'd the destruction of the Merchant and those belonging to them, intending afterwards to carry off the Ship with its freight; and in execution of their purpose had fallen upon the Merchant, whom they wounded in several places, and had undoubtedly kill'd him, but that Captain *Lucy* in the *Victory*, a Privateer came by providence to its rescue, and seizing their principals, secured them from further attempts.

Wynmouth Sep. 3. On the first instant a small French Vessel with Ballast, taken by one of our Frigots, was sent in hither, and by the way ran on ground in the storm, but by the assistance of several persons she got off, being robb'd whilst she lay there of all her Rigging, Sayles, and Tackle.

Dublin, Aug. 18. On the 25. instant his Grace the Lord Lieutenant came safe to *Kilkenny*, intending from thence to visit all the most considerable places in *Munster*. The Lord Chancellor is well recovered, and was yesterday abroad, and intends speedily to follow. All Countries are in very good order, the *Torys* no more heard of, and the Militiaes generally settled in a very good posture.

Norwich, Septemb. 5. The account of our Bil of Mortality for this last week runs thus; buried of all Diseases 162. Whereof of the Plague 147. Besides at the Pest-house 12.

Portsmouth, Septemb. 7. Yesterday his Grace the Lord General parted hence for London, leaving the Fleet retired after the late storm, and ready to put to Sea again with the first fair wind.

Notice is hereby given, That Sir Robert Viner is now settled in the African house near the middle of Broadstreet London, where he intends to manage his affairs (as formerly in Lombardstreet) having by the good providence of God been entirely preserved by a timely and safe removal of all his concerns, almost twenty four hours before the furious Fire entered Lombardstreet.

Also Alderman Meynell, and Alderman Backwell, with divers others of Lombardstreet, being likewise preserved in their Estates, do intend to settle in a few daies in or near Broadstreet.

The general Post-office is for the present held at the two Black Pillars in Bridges-street, over against the Fleeca-Tavern, Covent garden, till a more convenient place can be found in London.

Royal Charles in *St Helens Road, Sept. 2.* On the 30th past, by six in the morning our Fleet weigh'd anchor, at *Sole Bay*, but it proving a calm, and the tide against us, we were forc'd to come again to an Anchor before we had made a league of way, and so rid that day without farther intelligence of the Enemy.

The 31. by 7. in the morning we were under sayl, and stood a Course towards the *Long Sand-head*, till about 11. at noon, when off *Balfey Cliffe* we discovered the Enemy bearing S. and by E. whereupon we steered S. E. being assured by our Pilots to be clear of the *Galleper*, but yet we past not so well, but that this Ship struck upon the sand, but was so fortunate as to get off again without prejudice: Which stop brought us into better order to steer after the Enemy, with the *White Squadron* in the Van, and the *Blew* in the Rear, till 12. at night, keeping the Wind, at which time we quest the Dutch were tacked, seeing them near us, and some of our sternmost ships and the Enemy firing, which made us tack also and stand to the Northwards.

Sept. 1. We saw the Vice-Admiral of the *Blew* to the Leeward with some few ships, and finding the Dutch were gone away from us towards *Calais*, we stood a Course after them, and found some of them newly Anchored and others standing in, but at our approach, they got all under sayl and stood for *Ballogue Road*, haling in close to the shoar, being sure to weather us if we past the Point, the Wind then E. by N. and E. N. E. as much as we could carry our top sayls half mast high: Whereupon we lay by, short of the place, till all our Fleet came up; but then the storm growing greater, and having no hopes, by reason of the ill weather, of attempting farther upon the Enemy, who durst not adventure out of the shelter of the shoar, it was found best to lay by, and bring the Fleet together, and the next day to betake our selves to *St. Helens bay*, the place appointed for our Rendezvous, as the most proper Station to hinder the enemies conjunction with the French; we being ready with the first fair Wind to seek out the Enemy.

In the storm two of our ships struck upon the *Ripriffsands*, viz. the *Andrew* and the *Happy return*, but got well off again; The rest of our Fleet in good condition. What loss the Enemy sustain'd by the storm we know not, only we are assured, they were forced to blow up one of their greatest ships; another a Flag ship, wholly disabled, was seen driving before the wind; and that several others of them were much damnified and disabled; and of the rest four we could see run upon the Sands, and with great difficulty got off again.

Dover, Sept. 8. This afternoon the Dutch Fleet weigh'd from *Bullen-Road*, and are now standing towards their own Coast.