

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 terour 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