

At a Court held at Stationers-Hall,

On *Friday* the 22th day of *May*, 1685.

WHEREAS this Court hath this day received His Majesties Command and Pleasure, bearing date the 21th of this instant *May*, by Sir *Roger L'Estrange* Knight, Surveyor of the Press, about the Licensing and Entering of all Books and Papers, for the better government of the Press; together with an express Order to communicate the same unto all the Members thereof: This Court, in Obedience to His Majesties Command, do, according to their Duty, hereby signifie His Majesties Royal Pleasure to all the Members of this Company, in the words following, *viz.*

That the Master and Wardens of the said Company, without delay, notifie unto all the Members and Dealers in the Trade of the said Company, That in case of all Books and Papers hereafter to be Imprinted or Reprinted, they repair to such Licensers in the matters of Common Law, History and State, Heraldry, Titles of Honour and Arms, Books of Divinity, Physick, Philosophy, Arts and Sciences, as did formerly License Books and Papers respectively treating of the said Subjects, before the time of the late Scandalous and Intolerable Liberties of the Press. And that in the case of such Miscellaneous Books and Papers as shall not fall properly under those heads, It is Our further Pleasure, That they be subjected to the Censure of the Surveyor of the Press, or of such his Deputy or Deputies as shall by him the said Surveyor be thereunto authorized and appointed. Requiring the said Companies exact Obedience herein, and their uttermost Care also by necessary Orders and By-Laws, and by the Powers and Priviledges of their Charter, to provide, that no Books or Papers be hereafter Printed or Published, without such License as aforesaid: And that nothing be done, either by themselves, or any of their Members, contrary to the tenor hereof.

Provided always, That all Books and Papers to be hereafter Imprinted, shall be Entred in the Registry of the Company of Stationers, (Books and Papers of Patent-Right onely excepted, and such other Books and Papers as shall be agreed upon betwixt the Surveyor of the Press and the said Company of Stationers.)

And likewise, Provided that no Entry be made of any Books or Papers as aforesaid hereafter to be Imprinted, without the Name of the Licenser of the said Book or Paper unto the said Entry annexed.

It is moreover Our express Will and Command, That you (*viz.* the Surveyor of the Press) exercise all such Powers as formerly you did, and as lawfully you may, in and about the Regulation of the Press; and that you see diligently to the execution of these Our Royal Commands, and render a Report unto Us from time to time, in case of any Opposition or Disobedience thereunto; the Command of the Press being a Prerogative indispensable from the Sovereignty of Our Imperial Crown. And for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

And you are to take notice, that Order is given to the Clerk of this Company, That he henceforth Enter no Books or Copies in the Register of this Company, but according to the Rules and Directions above-mentioned.

And to the end that none may plead Ignorance about the Authorities to License the several Subjects herein mentioned, You are to take notice,

1. That all Books concerning the Common Laws of this Realm, are to be Licensed by the Lord Chancellor or Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal of *England* for the time being, the Lords Chief-Justices and Lord Chief-Baron for the time being, or one or more of them; or by their or one or more of their appointments.

2. That all Books of History, and Books concerning the state of this Realm, or other Books concerning any Affairs of State or History whatsoever, are to be Licensed by His Majesties Principal Secretaries of State for the time being, or one of them; or by their or one of their appointments.

3. That all Books concerning Heraldry, Titles of Honour and Arms, or otherwise concerning the Office of Earl-Marshal, are to be Licensed by the Earl-Marshal for the time being, or by his appointment; or in case there shall not then be an Earl-Marshal, to be Licensed by the Three Kings of Arms, *Garter*, *Clarencieux*, and *Nerrey*, or any two of them, whereof *Garter* Principal King of Arms to be one.

4. That all Books of Divinity, Physick, Philosophy, Arts and Sciences, be Licensed and Allowed by the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and Lord Bishop of *London*, for the time being, or one of them, or by their or one of their appointments; or by either of the Chancellors or Vice-Chancellors of either of the Universities of this Realm for the time being. The said Chancellors or Vice-Chancellors of either of the said Universities are onely to License such Books as are to be Imprinted or Reprinted within the Limits of the said Universities respectively, but not in *London* or elsewhere.

And it is Ordered by this Court, That all and every the Members of this Company, do punctually observe all the Rules and Directions above prescribed and directed, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

John Garret, Clerk to the said Company.

