

MALTA (PROCLAMATIONS).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 July 1890;—for,

“ COPIES of the PROCLAMATIONS issued by Mr. *Cameron*, CIVIL
COMMISSIONER of *Malta*, dated the 15th day of July 1801 :

“ And, by Sir *Thomas Maitland*, the FIRST GOVERNOR of *Malta*, dated
the 5th day of October 1813.”

Colonial Office, }
July 1890. }

(*Mr. Summers.*)



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PROCLAMA di *Charles Cameron*, alla Nazione Maltese.

INCARICATO da Sua Maestà, il Re della Gran Brettagna, di reggere tutti gli affari, fuorchè li militari 'di quest 'Isole di Malta e Gozo, col titolo di Commissionario Civile della Maestà Sua, abbraccio con sommo contento questa occasione di assicurarvi della paterna cura ed affezione del Re per voi, di assicurarvi che Sua Maestà vi accorda piena protezione, e godimento di tutt' i vostri più cari dritti, proteggerà le vostre Chiese, la vostra Santa Religione, le vostre persone, e le vostre proprietà.

La paterna sua cura s'estende agli spedali, ed altri stabilimenti di carità, all'istruzione della gioventù, agli orfani, agli abbandonati, ai poveri, ed a tutti coloro, che ricorrono alla sua beneficenza.

Popolo felice che la mano di Dio ha salvato dalla orribile miseria, ed oppressione sotto a cui gemono tante innocenti Nazioni, ricevete con gratitudine tanta bontà d'un Re, padre de' suoi sudditi, che protegge il debole contro il forte, il povero contro il ricco, sotto il cui Dominio tutti sono ugualmente protetti dalla legge.

Voi vi siete fin'ora condotti con decoro, e con sommissione alle autorità legittime, e la vostra antica fama nelle armi non si è smentita nella difesa, che ultimamente faceste della vostra Patria.

Essendo ormai il commercio esteso, le arti, e le scienze protette, le manifatture, e l'agricoltura sostenute, e l'industria animata, Malta sarà l'emporio del Mediterraneo, e la sede del contento.

L'eseguire così graziose sovrane volontà, è non meno il mio ardente desiderio, che il mio sagra dovere. La mia porta sarà a tutti aperta, ascolterò tutti, sempre sarò pronto a rendere giustizia a tutti, a fare osservare le leggi, temperandole colla clemenza, ed a ricevere ogni informazione, che avrà per oggetto il bene de' Maltesi, e sopra tutto mi occuperò de' mezzi di far prosperare la coltivazione, e la manifattura del cotone, e d'introdurre, e mantenere l'abbondanza dei viveri di queste Isole.

Dal Palazzo, li 15 Luglio 1801.

Charles Cameron,
in Malta.

TRANSLATION of PROCLAMATION by *Charles Cameron*, Civil Commissioner of *Malta*.

To the Maltese Nation.

CHARGED by His Majesty, the King of Great Britain, to conduct all the affairs (except the military) of these islands of Malta and Gozo, with the title of His Majesty's Civil Commissioner, I embrace, with the highest satisfaction, this opportunity of assuring you of the paternal care and affection of the King towards you; and that His Majesty grants you full protection, and the enjoyments of all your dearest rights. He will protect your churches, your holy religion, your persons, and your property.

His paternal care extends to the hospitals, and other charitable establishments; to the education of youth, to orphans, to the poor, and to all those who recur to his beneficence.

Happy people! whom the hand of God has saved from the horrible misery and oppression under which groan so many innocent nations; receive with gratitude all this goodness from a King who is the father of his subjects; who
protects

protects the weak against the strong; the poor against the rich; under whose dominion all are equally protected by the law.

Hitherto you have conducted yourselves with decorum and submission to the legitimate authorities; and your ancient fame in arms has not been tarnished by the defence which you lately made of your country.

Commerce being now extended, the arts and sciences encouraged, manufactures and agriculture supported, and industry rewarded, Malta will become the emporium of the Mediterranean, and the seat of content.

To execute such gracious commands of my Sovereign is not less my ardent desire than it is my sacred duty. My door shall be open to all; I will hear everyone's plea; I shall be ready to render justice; to cause the law to be observed, tempering it with clemency; and to receive every information which shall have for its object the welfare of the Maltese; and, above all, I shall devote myself to the means of promoting the cultivation and manufacture of cotton, and of introducing and maintaining plenty in these islands.

(signed) *Charles Cameron.*

Palace, 15 July 1801.

MINUTE by Sir *Thomas Maitland*, Governor of *Malta*.

HIS Excellency, on assuming the government of these islands, is most happy to find that the severe calamity with which Malta has been afflicted is rapidly decreasing, and he is firmly persuaded that a steady, rigid, and uniform adherence to those wise and salutary restrictions enjoined by his Excellency's predecessor will, within a very limited period, completely eradicate the plague now, and he trusts for ever, from this island.

Until that desirable object be attained it will be impossible for his Excellency to enter upon any of those measures he has been charged by his Royal Master to carry into effect, with a view to consolidate and establish, on a firm and permanent basis, the happiness and prosperity of these islands.

His Excellency cannot, however, refrain from stating to the Maltese, even thus early, the great interest His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, has been graciously pleased to take in their welfare, the deep consideration he has given to their hitherto uncertain and unsettled state, and his gracious determination henceforth to recognise the people of Malta and Gozo as subjects of the British Crown, and as entitled to its fullest protection.

It will be his Excellency's duty, in carrying into effect his Royal Master's benevolent instructions on this head, to secure to the Maltese, in the fullest manner, the free exercise of their religion, to maintain their Ecclesiastical Establishment, to introduce such amelioration in the proceedings of the Courts of Law as will secure to everyone the certainty of speedy and effective justice; to make such improvement in the laws themselves as past experience or change of circumstances may have rendered necessary and advisable; and, in short, to adopt every measure that may be requisite to secure to the inhabitants a full share of that happiness, wealth, security, and prosperity fortunately enjoyed by all the subjects of the British Empire in every part of the world.

Until his Excellency can with propriety enter upon this course of proceedings he expects from the public functionaries, of all descriptions, a steady and energetic adherence to those measures so wisely laid down by his worthy and excellent predecessor; and from the people, the calm and temperate endurance of those privations absolutely necessary to be tolerated, under the afflicting circumstances in which they have been placed, circumstances which no human wisdom could avert, but which may gradually be subdued by the energy of Government, and the acquiescence of all ranks in the measures, however painful, yet absolutely necessary, to be adopted to that effect.

By command of his Excellency,
(signed) *F. Laing*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Palace, Valletta, 5 October 1813.

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