EEN ENGELSCH GOUVERNEUR VAN CURAÇAO

DOOR

P. A. EUWENS O. P.

Het volgende is de tekst van een op perkament gecalligrapheerd document, bevattende de officieele lastgeving en volmacht van George III, koning van Engeland, voor Cocksburn, den eersten Engelschen gouverneur van Curaçao na de inbezitneming door de Engelschen op 1 Januari 1807. Het stuk bevindt zich thans op het Rijksarchief in Den Haag, is 72 c. M. breed en 58 c. M. lang, voorzien van een groot roodbruin zegel in hars, gesloten in een ronde blikken doos van 18 c.M. middellijn. Dit zegel is geheel in elkaar geloopt en onkenbaar, het vertoont geen enkele figuur meer. Hier en daar op de vouwen heeft het perkament geleden, en daar zijn de woorden moeilijk te ontcijferen.

Het document is omlijst met een breede rand, aan den bovenkant 11 c.M. en terzijden ruim 5 c.M. breed. De beginletter G. omsluit een groot medaljon-portret van George III van 14 × 11 c.M. Verder bevinden zich in de lijst vrouwenfiguren o.a. Themis en een vredesengel met een palmtak en kleine medaljonportretten van den Koning en de Koningin.

De tekst van het document is met de pen geteekend; de lijst en portretten zijn gedrukt. *Printed by J. Hawkins No. 44 Fetter Lane. Holborn London* staat er onder het Engelsche wapen.

GEORGE THE THIRD BY THE GRACE of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith. *To our trusty and welbeloved Sir James Cockburn Baronet Erecting. Know Ye that We reposing especial Trust and Confidence in the Prudence, Courage and Loyalty of you, the said James Cockburn, of our especial Grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have thought fit to constitute and appoint, and by these Presents*

do constitute and appoint you, the said Sir James Cockburn, to be our Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our Island of Curacoa, as also of all our Forts and Garrisons erected and established or which shall be erected and established within the same. *And We* do hereby require and command you to do and execute all things in due manner that shall belong to your said command, and the Trust We have reposed in you, according to the several powers and directions granted or appointed you by this present Commission and the Instructions herewith given you, or by such further Powers, Instructions and Authorities as shall at any time hereafter be granted or appointed you under our Signet or Sign Manual or by our Order in our Privy Council. *We do* further give and grant unto your, the said Sir James Cockburn, full power and authority, from time to time and at all times hereafter, by yourself, or by any other Person or Persons to be authorized by you in that behalf, to administer and give the Oaths, mentioned in an Act passed in the first Year of the Reign of King George the First, intituled „An Act for the further Security of his Majesty's Person „and Government, and the succession of the Crown in the Heirs of „the late Princess Sophia, being Protestants, and for extinguishing „the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales and his open and „secret Abettors”, as the same is altered and explained by an Act ~~passed in the sixth Year of our Reign~~ intituled „An Act for altering the Oath of abjuration and the Assurance and for amending so much of an Act of the seventh Year of her late Majesty „Queen Anne Intituled „An Act for the improvement of the „Union of the two Kingdoms”, as after the time, therein limited, requires the delivery of certain Lists and Copies therein mentioned, to Persons indicted of High Treason or Misprision of Treason, to all and every such Person or Persons as you shall think fit who shall hold any place of Trust or Profit, or shall at any time or times pass into our said Island, or shall be resident or abiding therein, except in the case of Persons professing the Religion of the Church of Rome, in manner hereinafter directed. *And whereas* We may find it convenient for our Service that certain Offices and Places within our said Island should be filled with our Subjects professing the Religion of the Church of Rome, It is therefore our Will and Pleasure that in all cases where such Persons shall or may be admitted into any such Office or Place, the Oath prescribed in and by an Act of Parliament passed in the fourteenth Year of our Reign, intituled „An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North „America” and also the usual Oath for the due execution of their Places and Trusts respectively shall be duly administered unto them in lieu of all other Tests and Oaths whatsoever. *And we* do further give and grant unto you full power and authority, from time to time, and as often as you shall see occasion, by yourself or

by anyother Person or Persons to be authorized by you in that behalf, to administer and give the said Oath prescribed in and by the aforesaid Act of Parliament, passed in the fourteenth Year of our Reign, intituled „An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America”, to all and every such Person and Persons, professing the Religion of the Church of Rome, who shall at any time or times pass into our said Island or shall be resident or abiding therein, in lieu of the Tests and Oaths above directed to be given to them or any of them in that behalf. *And we* do hereby give and grant unto you, the said Sir James Cockburn, by yourself or by your Captains and Commanders, by you to be authorized, full power and authority to levy arm, muster, command and employ any Person whatsoever, residing within our said Island, and as occasion shall serve to march them from one place to another or to embark them for the resisting and withstanding of any Enemies, Pirates and Rebels both at Land and at Sea and (if it shall so please God) to vanquish, apprehend, and take them and being taken to cause execution to be done upon them according to Law, or to keep and preserve them alive at your discretion, and to execute Martial Law in time of Invasion, or at other times when by Law it may be executed, and to do and execute all and every other thing or things which to our Governor and Commander in Chief doth or ought of right to belong. *And We* do hereby give and grant unto you full power and authority, when you shall see cause or judge any Offender or Offenders for Criminal Matters, or for any Fines or Forfeitures due unto us, fit objects of our Mercy, to pardon all such Offenders and to remit all such Offences, Fines and Forfeitures, High Treason and wilful Murder only excepted, in which cases you shall like wise have power upon extraordinary occasions to grant Reprieves to the Offenders until and to the intent our Royal Pleasure may be known therein. *And We* do hereby require and command all officers civil and military and all other Inhabitants of our said Island, to be obedient; aiding and assisting unto you in the execution of this our Commission and of the Powers and Authorities herein contained. And in case of your death, or necessary absence from the said Island, if there be no Person upon the Place commissioned or appointed by Us to be our Lieutenant Governor within the said Island *Our Will* and Pleasure is that the Officer, for the time being commanding our Forces in our said Island, do take upon him the administration of the Government of our said Island and execute this our said Commission and Instructions and the several Powers and Authorities therein contained in the same manner to all intents and purposes as you, our said Governor and Commander in Chief, might or ought to do for and during our Will and Pleasure. *And We* do hereby declare ordain and appoint that you, the said Sir James Cockburn, shall

and may hold and enjoy the place of our Governor and Commander in Chief in and over our Island of Curacoa as also of all our Forts and Garrisons erected and established or which shall be erected and established in our said Island with all and singular the Powers and Authorities hereby granted unto you for and during our Will and Pleasure.

In Witness whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent *Witness* Ourselves at Westminster the fourth Day of May in the forty seventh Year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,
Bathurst and Bathurst.

Entered at the Treasury Chamber Whilst all this 12th day of May 1807.

FREDK. NICOLAY.