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FROM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19. TO TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23. 1806.

The Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Friday, December 19, 1806.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ His Majesty has commanded us to assure you, that in the difficult and arduous circumstances under which you are now assembled, it is a great satisfaction to him, to recur to the firmness and wisdom of his Parliament, after so recent an opportunity of collecting the sense of his people.

“ His Majesty has ordered the papers which have been exchanged in the course of the late negotiation with France to be laid before you.

“ His Majesty has employed every effort for the restoration of general tranquillity, on terms consistent with the interests and honour of his people, and with that inviolable good faith towards his allies by which the conduct of this country has always been distinguished.

“ The ambition and injustice of the enemy disappointed these endeavours, and in the same moment kindled a fresh war in Europe; the progress of which has been attended with the most calamitous events.

“ After witnessing the subversion of the ancient constitution of Germany, and the subjugation of a large proportion of its most considerable states, Prussia found herself still more nearly threatened by that danger which she had vainly hoped to avert by so many sacrifices. She was, therefore, at length compelled to adopt the resolution of openly resisting this unremitted system of aggrandizement and conquest. But neither this determination, nor the succeeding measures, were previously concerted with his Majesty. Nor had any disposition been shewn to offer any adequate satisfaction for those aggressions which had placed the two countries in a state of mutual hostility.

“ Yet in this situation his Majesty did not hesitate to adopt without delay, such measures as were best calculated to unite their councils and interests against the common enemy.

“ The rapid course of the calamities which ensued opposed insurmountable difficulties to the execution of this purpose.

“ In the midst of these disastrous events, and under the most trying circumstances, the good faith of his Majesty's allies has remained unshaken. The conduct of the King of SWEDEN has been distinguished by the most honourable firmness. Between his Majesty and the Emperor of RUSSIA the happiest union subsists; it has been cemented by reciprocal proofs of good faith and confidence; and his Majesty doubts not that you will participate in his anxiety to cultivate and confirm an alliance which affords the only remaining hope of safety for the Continent of Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

“ His Majesty looks with confidence to your assistance in those exertions which the honour and independence of your country demand. The necessity of adding to the public burthens will be painful to your feelings, and it is deeply distressing to his Majesty. In considering the estimates for the various branches of the public service, you will best consult his Majesty's wishes by combining all practicable economy with those efforts which it is necessary to make against the formidable and increasing power of the enemy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ The long series of misfortune which has afflicted the Continent of Europe could not fail to affect, in some degree, many important interests of this country.

“ But under every successive difficulty, his Majesty has had the satisfaction of witnessing an increasing energy and firmness on the part of his people, whose uniform and determined resistance

has been no less advantageous than honourable to themselves, and has exhibited the most striking example to the surrounding nations. The unconquerable valour and discipline of his Majesty's fleets and armies continue to be displayed with undiminished lustre: The great sources of our prosperity and strength are unimpaired. Nor has the British nation been at any time more united in sentiment and action, or more determined to maintain inviolate the independence of the empire, and the dignity of the national character. With these advantages, and with an humble reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, his Majesty is prepared to meet the exigencies of this great crisis; assured of receiving the fullest support from the wisdom of your deliberations, and from the tried affection, loyalty, and public spirit of his brave people.”

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE—Dec. 20. 1806.

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Cochrane, K. E. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at the Leeward Islands, to William Marsden, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship the Northumberland, at Barbadoes, the 4th November 1806.

SIR,

I have the honour to inclose for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of letters from Captains Sayer and Briggs, of the Galatea and Orpheus; also from Lieutenant Dean, commanding his Majesty's armed brig Dominica; giving an account of the capture and destruction of vessels therein mentioned.

I am, &c. ALEX. COCHRANE.

His Majesty's ship Galatea, at sea,
20th September 1806.

SIR,

On the 18th ult. Lieutenant M'ulloch, in this ship's barge, pursued a schooner some miles up a river on the Spanish Main, near Porto Cavallo, when, after an able resistance, (her Commander

