

*Translation of the Answer of the Secretary of State, of his most Faithful Majesty, to the Memorial of the Spanish Ambassador, and the Minister Plenipotentiary of France.*

**D**ON Lewis da Cunha, Secretary of State to the most Faithful King, having laid before his Majesty, the Memorial, which his Excellency Mons. Torrero, the Catholick King's Ambassador, and Mons. O Dun, Minister Plenipotentiary from the most Christian King, at this Court, delivered to him the 16th of this Month, wherein, after having declared the Reasons of the present War, broken out between the said Two Monarchs, and England, his most Faithful Majesty is invited to unite himself, by an Offensive and Defensive League, to the Two Courts of Versailles, and of Madrid, against England; to break off all Communication and Commerce with the English; to treat them as Common Enemies, not only of the Three Allied Powers, but of all the other Maritime Ones, to drive them from his Ports, to shut them against all Ships of War and Merchant Ships, and to join the Portuguese Forces to those of France, and of Spain, to obtain, by this Means, the Object of the said War; the Ambassador of the Catholick King finally declaring, That that Monarch, before he caused the above-mentioned Memorial to be presented to the King, had ordered his Troops to march to the Frontiers of Portugal, to prevent the Designs of the English, who might have surprized the Maritime Places of this Kingdom, when the Offensive Union of his most Faithful Majesty, with their Catholick, and most Christian Majesties, should come to their Knowledge.

The King having taken the Consents of the aforesaid Memorial into serious Consideration, in the precise Term of Four Days, has ordered his Secretary of State to answer;

That his most Faithful Majesty is sensibly affected, at seeing the Flames of War kindled between the Powers with whom he is closely connected by Ties of Blood, and of Friendship, and by solemn Treaties, such as Spain, France, and Great Britain: That his most Faithful Majesty wishes that those same Ties, and the Neutrality he observes, may enable him to propose by his Mediation, a Renewal of the Conferences broken off at London, some Time since, and to see, if, by this Means, It be possible to reconcile Interests and Minds; so that, without further Effusion of Human Blood, an advantageous, necessary and useful Peace may be obtained.

That his most Faithful Majesty, disposed as much as possible to comply with the Proposal made on the Part of the Catholick and most Christian Kings, desires them nevertheless, to reflect on the insurmountable Obstacles, which hinder him from entering into the Offensive League proposed to him. That the Court of Portugal having ancient and uninterrupted Alliances with the British Court, for many Years past, by solemn and publick Treaties, purely defensive, and, as such, innocent; and not having received any immediate Offence on the Part of Great Britain, to break the same Treaties, his most Faithful Majesty could not enter into an Offensive League against that Court, without being wanting to the publick Faith, Religion, Fidelity, and Decorum, which are the invariable Principles of his Majesty's Mind, and of all Religious and Magnanimous Princes, such as the Catholick and most Christian Kings.

That, besides these Considerations, his most Faithful Majesty, loving his Subjects as a Father, and being obliged to attend to their Preservation as King, it is easy to see, that he would be wanting both to one and the other, if he should oblige them to endure the Calamities of an Offensive War, which they

are not in a Condition to support, after the Misfortunes, which have happened in Portugal, by the long Sickness of the late King, his Majesty's glorious Father; by the Earthquake in the Year 1755; and by the horrible Conspiracy of 1758.

That his most Faithful Majesty, upon these Principles of Religion, Humanity, and Publick Faith, having embraced the System of Neutrality, has given Orders to repair his Ports, and Maritime Places, and to provide them with every thing necessary, and to equip a sufficient Number of Ships of War to protect them; he has caused his Troops to be held ready, and at hand, to prevent, in the said Ports and Maritime Places, those Accidents which might happen there: All these Dispositions having been made for the common Advantage of the Powers who are at War, without Distinction of any; and in order that the Subjects of the same Powers may enjoy the Protection and Hospitality granted, and religiously observed in all Times, in the Ports of this Kingdom, according to the common Rule of the Law of Nations, and the Practice of all the Courts, who have no Interest to take Part in the Wars which are kindled between other Nations.

In short, the above mentioned Secretary of State of his most Faithful Majesty, has the King's Orders to tell his Excellency Don Joseph Torrero, in order that he may transmit it to the King his Master, That his most Faithful Majesty, since the Accession of his Catholic Majesty to the Throne of Spain, has always given him the most distinguished Marks of a Brother who loves him, of a Brother-in-Law who esteems him, of a sincere Friend, and of a Neighbour, who has forgotten nothing to cultivate an intimate Correspondence with him, even so far as to stipulate by the last Treaty of the 12th of February of the preceding Year, even when the Acquisitions of the King were in Question—"That he preferred every other Interest, that of removing the smallest Occasion, that might become an Obstacle to, or alter, not only the good Correspondence due to his Friendship, and to the strict Ties of Blood, but that might prevent an intimate Union between their respective Subjects." The King hopes, that the Moment his Catholic Majesty shall have reflected upon all these Marks of Love, of Friendship, and of uninterrupted Dispositions to please him, and shall have weighed them with the Force of the Reasons above-cited, he will see on the one Hand that these Reasons alone, which exceed the Limits of the King's Power, hinder him from entering into the League proposed to him; and, on the other Hand, he will also see, that it is impossible for any Thing to be done in the Ports of this Kingdom contrary to the Interests of his Catholic Majesty, and to the firm Neutrality which this Court considers as a necessary Principle of her System. Palace, 20 March, 1762.

*Don Lewis da Cunha.*

*Translation of a Memorial of the Ambassador of Spain, and of the Minister Plenipotentiary of France, delivered to M. da Cunha the 1st of April, 1762.*

**D**ON Joseph Torrero, Ambassador of the Catholick King, and Don James O Dun, Minister Plenipotentiary of the most Christian King; the First, in virtue of new Orders which he has received from his Catholick Majesty, after he had seen the Answer given by his Excellency Don Lewis da Cunha, Secretary of State to the most Faithful King, dated the 20th of March last, to the Memorial which the Two Ministers delivered to him; and the Second, in Consequence of the System which the King his Master, and the Catholick King, his Cousin, have embraced,