

Information, so as that any of such Authors, Actors or Abettors as aforesaid shall be apprehended and brought to Justice, shall, upon Conviction of such Offender or Offenders, receive Our most gracious Pardon.

Given at Our Court at St. James's the Thirty-first Day of October, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-five, in the Thirty-sixth Year of Our Reign.

G O D save the K I N G.

Westminster, October 29.

THIS Day, His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to make the following most Gracious Speech :

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

IT is a great Satisfaction to Me to reflect, that, notwithstanding many Events unfavourable to the common Cause, the Prospect resulting from the general Situation of Affairs has, in many important Respects, been materially improved in the Course of the present Year.

In Italy, the threatened Invasion of the French has been prevented, and they have been driven back from a considerable Part of the Line of Coast which they had occupied: There is also Reason to hope that the recent Operations of the Austrian Army have checked the Progress which they had made on the Side of Germany, and frustrated the offensive Projects which they were pursuing in that Quarter.

The Successes which have attended their military Operations in other Parts of the Campaign, and the Advantages which they have derived from the Conclusion of separate Treaties with some of the Powers who were engaged in the War, are far from compensating the Evils which they experience from its Continuance. The Destruction of their Commerce, the Diminution of their maritime Power, and the unparalleled Embarrassment and Distress of their internal Situation, have produced the Impression which was naturally to be expected; and a general Sense appears to prevail throughout France, that the only Relief from the increasing Pressure of these Difficulties must arise from the Restoration of Peace, and the Establishment of some settled System of Government.

The Distraction and Anarchy, which have so long prevailed in that Country, have led to a Crisis, of which it is as yet impossible to foresee the Issue; but which must, in all human Probability, produce Consequences highly important to the Interests of Europe. Should this Crisis terminate in any Order of Things compatible with the Tranquillity of other Countries, and affording a reasonable Expectation of Security and Permanence in any Treaty which might be concluded, the Appearance of a Disposition to negotiate for general Peace, on just and suitable Terms, will not fail to be met, on My Part, with an earnest Desire to give it the fullest and speediest Effect. But I am persuaded you will agree with Me, that nothing is so likely to ensure and accelerate this desirable End, as to shew that We are prepared for either Alternative, and are determined to prosecute the War with the utmost Energy and Vigour, until We have the Means of concluding, in Conjunction with Our Allies, such a Peace as the Justice of Our Cause and the Situation of the Enemy may entitle Us to expect.

With this View I am continuing to make the greatest Exertions for maintaining and improving our Naval Superiority, and for carrying on active and vigorous Operations in the West Indies, in order to secure and extend the Advantages which We have gained in that Quarter, and which are so nearly connected with Our commercial Resources and maritime Strength.

I rely with full Confidence on the Continuance of your firm and zealous Support, on the uniform Bravery of My Fleets and Armies, and on the Fortitude, Perseverance, and Publick Spirit of all Ranks of My People.

The Acts of Hostility committed by the United Provinces, under the Influence and Control of France, have obliged Me to treat them as in a State of War with this Country.

The Fleet which I have employed in the North Seas has received the most cordial and active Assistance from the Naval Force furnished by the Empress of Russia, and has been enabled effectually to check the Operations of the Enemy in that Quarter.

I have concluded Engagements of Defensive Alliance with the Two Imperial Courts; and the Ratifications of the Treaty of Commerce with the United States of America, which I announced to you last Year, have now been exchanged.—I have directed Copies of these Treaties to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It is Matter of deep Concern to Me, that the Exigencies of the Publick Service will require further Additions