



# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday October 4, to Saturday October 8, 1796.

*Westminster, October 6, 1796.*

**T**HIS 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,*

**I**T is a peculiar Satisfaction to Me, in the present Conjunction of Affairs, to recur to your Advice, after the recent Opportunity which has been given for collecting the Sense of My People, engaged in a difficult and arduous Contest, for the Preservation of all that is most dear to Us.

I have omitted no Endeavours for setting on foot Negotiations to restore Peace to Europe, and to secure for the future the general Tranquillity.—The Steps which I have taken for this Purpose have at length opened the Way to an immediate and direct Negotiation, the Issue of which must either produce the desirable End of a just, honourable, and solid Peace for Us, and for Our Allies, or must prove, beyond Dispute, to what Cause alone the Prolongation of the Calamities of War must be ascribed.

I shall immediately send a Person to Paris with Full Powers to treat for this Object, and it is My anxious Wish that this Measure may lead to the Re-

storation of general Peace: But you must be sensible, that nothing can so much contribute to give Effect to this Desire, as your manifesting that We possess both the Determination and the Resources to oppose, with increased Activity and Energy, the further Efforts with which We may have to contend.

You will feel this peculiarly necessary at a Moment when the Enemy has openly manifested the Intention of attempting a Descent on these Kingdoms.—It cannot be doubted what would be the Issue of such an Enterprize; but it befits your Wisdom to neglect no Precautions that may either preclude the Attempt, or secure the speediest Means of turning it to the Confusion and Ruin of the Enemy.

In reviewing the Events of the Year, you will have observed, that, by the Skill and Exertions of My Navy, Our extensive and increasing Commerce has been protected to a Degree almost beyond Example, and the Fleets of the Enemy have, for the greatest Part of the Year, been blocked up in their own Ports.

The Operations in the East and West Indies have been highly honourable to the British Arms, and productive of great National Advantage; and the Valour and good Conduct of My Forces, both by Sea and Land, have been eminently conspicuous.

The Fortune of War on the Continent has been more various, and the Progress of the French Armies threatened, at one Period, the utmost Danger to all Europe; but from the honourable and dignified Perseverance of My Ally the Emperor, and from the

Intrepidity,