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Westminster, November 11, 1800.

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,

My tender Concern for the Welfare of My Subjects, and a Sense of the Difficulties with which the poorer Classes particularly have to struggle, from the present high Price of Provisions, have induced Me to call you together at an earlier Period than I had otherwise intended. No Object can be nearer My Heart than that, by your Care and Wisdom, all such Measures may be adopted as may, upon full Consideration, appear best calculated to alleviate this severe Pressure, and to prevent the Danger of its Recurrence, by promoting, as far as possible, the permanent Extension and Improvement of Our Agriculture.

For the Object of immediate Relief, your Attention will naturally be directed, in the first Instance, to the best Mode of affording the earliest and the most ample Encouragement for the Importation of all Descriptions of Grain from Abroad.

Such a Supply, aided by the Examples which you have set on former Occasions of Attention to Economy and Frugality in the Consumption of Corn, is most likely to contribute to a Reduction in the present high Price, and to insure, at the same Time, the Means of meeting the Demands for the necessary Consumption of the Year.

The present Circumstances will also, I am persuaded, render the State of the Laws respecting the Commerce in the various Articles of Provision the Object of your serious Deliberation.

If, on the Result of that Deliberation, it shall appear to you that the Evil necessarily arising from unfavorable Seasons has been encreased by any undue Combinations or fraudulent Practices for the Sake of adding unfairly to the Price, you will feel an earnest Desire of effectually preventing such Abuses; but you will, I am sure, be careful to distinguish any Practices of this Nature from that regular and long established Course of Trade which Experience has shewn to be indispensable, in the present State of Society, for the Supply of the Markets, and for the Subsistence of My People.

You will have seen with Concern the temporary Disturbances which have taken place in some Parts of the Kingdom. Those malicious and disaffected Persons, who cruelly take Advantage of the present Difficulties to excite any of My Subjects to Acts in Violation of the Laws and of the public Peace, are in the present Circumstances doubly criminal, as such Proceedings must necessarily and immediately tend to encrease, in the highest Degree, the Evil complained of; while they, at the same Time, endanger the permanent Tranquillity of the Country, on which the Well-being of the industrious Classes of the Community must always principally depend.

The voluntary Exertions which have on this Occasion been made for the immediate Repression of these Outrages, and in Support of the Laws and public Peace, are therefore entitled to My highest Praise.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Under the circumstances of the present Meeting, I am desirous of asking of you such Supplies only as may be necessary for carrying on the public Service, till the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland may conveniently be assembled. The Estimates for that Purpose will be laid before you; and I have no Doubt of your Readiness to make such Provision as the public Interests may appear to require.

