

No Pretence of Justification has been alleged for the hostile Conduct of the Emperor of Austria, or for that of His Prussian Majesty. His Majesty has not given the slightest Ground of Complaint to either of those Sovereigns, nor even at the Moment when they have respectively withdrawn their Ministers, have they assigned to His Majesty any distinct Cause for that Proceeding.

His Majesty has directed that Copies of the Official Notes which passed between His Majesty's Ambassador and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, pending the Negotiations at Tilsit, as well as of the Official Note of the Russian Minister at this Court, which contain the Offer of His Imperial Majesty's Mediation, and of the Answer returned to that Note by His Majesty's Command; and also Copies of the Official Notes of the Austrian Minister at this Court, and of the Answers which His Majesty commanded to be returned to them, shall be laid before you.

It is with Concern that His Majesty commands us to inform you, that notwithstanding His earnest Wishes to terminate the War in which He is engaged with the Ottoman Porte, His Majesty's Endeavours, unhappily for the Turkish Empire, have been defeated by the Machinations of France, not less the Enemy of the Porte than of Great Britain.

But while the Influence of France has been thus unfortunately successful in preventing the Termination of existing Hostilities, and in exciting new Wars against this Country, His Majesty commands us to inform you, that the King of Sweden has resisted every Attempt to induce him to abandon his Alliance with Great Britain; and that His Majesty entertains no Doubt that you will feel with Him the Sacredness of the Duty which the Firmness and Fidelity of the King of Sweden impose upon His Majesty, and that you will concur in enabling His Majesty to discharge it in a Manner worthy of this Country.

It remains for us, according to His Majesty's Commands, to state to you, that the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation between His Majesty and the United States of America, which was concluded and signed by Commissioners, duly authorized for that Purpose, on the 31st of December 1806, has not taken Effect, in consequence of the Refusal of the President of the United States to ratify that Instrument.

For an unauthorized Act of Force committed against an American Ship of War, His Majesty did not hesitate to offer immediate and spontaneous Reparation: But an Attempt has been made by the American Government to connect with the Question, which has arisen out of this Act, Pretensions inconsistent with the maritime Rights of Great Britain: Such Pretensions His Majesty is determined never to admit. His Majesty nevertheless hopes, that the American Government will be actuated by the same

Desire to preserve the Relations of Peace and Friendship between the Two Countries, which has ever influenced His Majesty's Conduct, and that any Difficulties in the Discussion now depending may be effectually removed.

His Majesty has commanded us to state to you, that in consequence of the Decree by which France declared the Whole of His Majesty's Dominions to be in a State of Blockade, and subjected to Seizure and Confiscation the Produce and Manufactures of His Kingdom, His Majesty resorted in the first Instance to a Measure of mitigated Retaliation; and that this Measure having proved ineffectual for its Object, His Majesty has since found it necessary to adopt others of greater Rigour, which He commands us to state to you will require the Aid of Parliament to give them complete and effectual Operation.

His Majesty has directed Copies of the Orders which He has issued (with the Advice of His Privy Council) upon this Subject, to be laid before you; and He commands us to recommend them to your early Attention.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

His Majesty has directed the Estimates for the Year to be laid before you, in the fullest Confidence that your Loyalty and public Spirit will induce you to make such Provision for the public Service as the Urgency of Affairs may require.

His Majesty has great Satisfaction in informing you, that notwithstanding the Difficulties which the Enemy has endeavoured to impose upon the Commerce of His Subjects, and upon their Intercourse with other Nations, the Resources of the Country have continued in the last Year to be so abundant, as to have produced both from the permanent and temporary Revenue a Receipt considerably larger than that of the preceding Year.

The Satisfaction which His Majesty feels assured you will derive, in common with His Majesty, from this Proof of the Solidity of these Resources, cannot but be greatly increased, if, as His Majesty confidently hopes, it shall be found possible to raise the necessary Supplies for the present Year without any material Addition to the public Burdens.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

We are especially commanded to say to you, in the Name of His Majesty, that if ever there was a just and national War, it is that which His Majesty is now compelled to prosecute.

This War is in its Principle purely defensive: His Majesty looks but to the Attainment of a secure and honourable Peace; but such a Peace can only be negotiated upon a Footing of perfect Equality.

The Eyes of Europe and of the World are fixed upon the British Parliament. If, as His Majesty confidently trusts, you display in this Crisis of the Fate of the Country, the characteristic Spirit of the