

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday November 11. to Saturday November 15. 1712.

Madrid, November 5. N. S.

THE King of Spain having consented, for the Preservation of a Balance of Power in Europe, and the facilitating of a General Peace, to renounce all Right that he or his Posterity might hereafter claim to the Kingdom of France, his Majesty signed the following Act agreed upon for that purpose, at ten a-Clock this Morning, and swore upon the Holy Evangelists to observe the same, in presence of the Council of State, and of the Chief Nobility. The Cortez or States of this Monarchy having been summon'd to meet here, in order to enact this Renunciation into a Law, his Catholick Majesty, attended by the President of Castille and Council of State, went into their Assembly at three this Afternoon, where in a short but very moving Speech, he acquainted them with what he had done, and the Motives that had engaged him to it, which were afterwards more fully explained in a Declaration read to them by the Secretary of the Camera. The Representative of the City of Burgos, in the Name of the rest, returned an Answer to his Majesty full of Acknowledgments for his Affection to the Spanish Nation, in preferring them to that of France. When this was done the Cortez adjourn'd, and agreed to meet again, in order to confirm and approve the Act of Renunciation. The Queen and Prince of Asturias, as also the Lord Lexington, who has not yet taken upon him any publick Character, were present at the whole Solemnity.

DON Philip, by the Grace of God, King of Castille, Leon, Arragon, both Sicilies, Jerusalem, Navarre, Granada, Toledo, Valencia, Galicia, Majorca, Seville, Sardinia, Cordova, Jaen, the Algarves, Algizares, Gibraltar, the Canary Islands, the East and West Indies, and Terra Firma of the Ocean Sea, Archduke of Austria, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant and Milan, Count of Hapsburg, Flanders, Tirol and Barcelona, Lord of Biscay and Molina, &c. For the Evidence and Publication of this Instrument and Writing of Renunciation and Quitting Claim, and to preserve the Memory thereof for ever, I do hereby Notifie and Declare to all Kings, Princes, Potentates, Commonwealths, Communities, and Private Persons that now are, and shall be in future Ages: That whereas one of the chief Intentions of the Treaties of Peace now depending between the Crowns of Spain, France, and England, is the Preservation of the Balance of Powers in Europe, in such manner that too many being united together this desired Balance and Equality may not be lost, to the Advantage of one of them, and so the Peril and endangering of the rest, and for the facilitating of a general Peace which may be firm and durable. It was proposed and insisted on by England, and agreed to on my part and that of the King my Grandfather, that, to avoid in all future Times the Union of this Monarchy with that of France; and that it may not happen in any Case, reciprocal Renunciations should be made on my part, and that of my Posterity, to any possibility of succeeding to the Monarchy of France, and on the part of those Princes, and all their Descendants present and to come, to any possible Succession to this Monarchy, by framing a distinct Narrative of the Abdication to be made by the two Royal Crowns of each Monarchy, of all the Rights they might Claim of succeeding reciprocally to each other, separating by the lawful Means of my Renunciation my Branch

from the Royal Stem of France, and all the French Branches from any Communication which might be derived to them by Alliance of Blood with the Royal Stem of Spain; but at the same time, that for the above-mentioned Reasons care is taken that the Monarchy of France is never to be joined to that of Spain, we must steddily pursue the fundamental and constant Maxim from which we are not in any Case to depart, viz. the Preservation of a Balance of Power; therefore the Inconveniencies are likewise to be avoided that would arise, if upon failure of my Issue this Monarchy should again devolve to the House of Austria, which by the addition of so considerable a Dominion to that of the Empire and Hereditary Countries would become very formidable, which Consideration was thought sufficient in former Times for dismembring the Hereditary Dominions of the House of Austria from the Body of the Spanish Monarchy. It being for this purpose stipulated and agreed by England with me and the King my Grandfather, that upon failure of me and my Issue this Monarchy shall fall to the House of Savoy, which being descended from the Infanta Donna Catharina, Daughter of King Philip the Second, and having never departed from that Claim, has an evident and known Right, that Friendship and perpetual Alliance being premised, which is to be sought and brought about, between the Duke of Savoy and his Posterity and this Crown; since one ought to believe that with this perpetual and firm Hope this Balance will never vary, with which all the Powers shall thus in a friendly manner have brought themselves into an equal Poise, being tired with the Labours and Uncertainty of Battles, no Power being left to any one Party to alter this Balance settled by Treaty, by the means of any Contract, Renanciation or Retrospection; but the Reason of its perpetual Duration is to prevail, which induces the admitting it, and framing it into a fundamental Constitution, which, like an unalterable Law, shall regulate the Succession for the time to come. I have considered the Premises, and out of the Love I bear to the Spaniards, and the Knowledge I have of what I owe them, and in regard to the repeated Instances I have received of their Loyalty, and to shew to the Divine Providence, with the Resignation I owe to its Decrees, the Sense I retain of that great Blessing of having placed and maintained me upon the Government of so many Illustrious and Well-deserving Subjects, I have resolved to Abdicate for me and all my Posterity any Right of succeeding to the Crown of France, being desirous never to depart from my Resolution of Living and Dying with my Beloved and Faithful Spaniards, leaving to all my Posterity the indissoluble Bond of their Loyalty and Love. And that this my Resolution may have its due Effect, and an end may be put to that which has been look'd upon as one of the chief Motives of the War wherewith Europe hath been hitherto Afflicted, of my own Motion, free, spontaneous, and unconstrained Will, I Don Philip, by the Grace of God, &c. do, by this present Instrument, for my Self, my Heirs and Successors, for ever Renounce, Relinquish and quit Claim to all Pretensions, Rights and Titles which I or any of my Posterity have at this time, or may have at any time hereafter to the Succession of the Crown of France. And I declare and hold my Self excluded and separated, my Self and my Children, Heirs and Posterity for ever, excluded and disabled, absolutely and without limitation, defence and distinction