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Westminster, March 2.

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

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have much Satisfaction in being able, at the Opening this Parliament, to tell you, That the Ratiſications of the Treaties of Peace and of Commerce with Spain are Exchanged, by which My Subjects will have greater Opportunities than ever to Improve and Extend their Trade. Many Advantages formerly enjoyed by Connivance, and procured by such Methods as made a Distinction between one British Merchant and another, are now Settled by Treaty, and an Equal Rule is Established.

It has pleased God to bless My Endeavours to Obtain an Honourable and Advantageous Peace for My own People, and for the greatest Part of My Allies: Nothing which I can do, shall be Wanting to render it Universal: And I Persuade My Self that, with your Hearty Concurrence, My Interposition may at last prove effectual to Complete the Settlement of Europe.

In the mean while, I Congratulate with My own Subjects, that they are Delivered from a Consuming Land-War; and Entered on a Peace; the good Effects whereof nothing but Intestine Divisions can Obstruct.

It was the Glory of the Wisest and Greatest of My Predecessors; to hold the Balance of Europe, and to keep it Equal by Casting in their Weight as Necessity required. By this Conduct they Enriched the Kingdom, and Rendered themselves Dreadful to their Enemies; and Useful to their Friends. I have Proceeded on the same Principle; and I doubt not but My Successors will follow these Examples.

Our Situation points out to Us Our true Interest; for this Country can Flourish only by Trade, and will be most Formidable by the right Application of Our Naval Force.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have Ordered such Accounts to be prepared and laid before you, as will shew you, at the Conclusion of the War, the true State of your Condition, whereby you will be better able to judge what Aids are Necessary; And I only ask of you Supplies for the Current Service of the Year, and for the Discharge of such Debts as you shall find, on Examination, to be Just and Reasonable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Joy which has been generally Expressed on My Recovery from My late Indisposition, and on My Coming to this City; I esteem as a Return to that Tender Affection