

Cousin and Councillor James Earl Stanhope, one of our Principal Secretaries of State, to Madrid, with full Power and Commission to offer our most hearty Endeavours for re establishing the Quiet of Europe, and for cultivating and improving the Friendship of the said King of Spain. And whereas notwithstanding all the Instances we could possibly make, all the tenders of Amity and Affection we could use, our said Plenipotentiary returned without the least Hopes of peaceable Dispositions in the said Court of Spain, and our Admiral in the Mediterranean, finding also no Tendency to amicable Measures, was obliged to assist and protect the Emperour's Dominions by Force, which were in imminent Danger by the further Invasion of the Kingdom of Sicily, and by the great Fleets and Armies which the said King of Spain had in those Parts. And whereas after all our Efforts and Endeavours, we have found the said King of Spain so far from hearkening to Terms of Friendship and Accommodation, that he has not only seized the Persons and Effects of our Subjects, being and residing in his Dominions, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of solema Treaties between us; but also has issued forth Orders to his Subjects to Arm against us and our Subjects, and to attack, seize, and destroy them, their Goods, Ships and Merchandizes wheresoever they can meet with them. And as these violent and unmerrited Proceedings have put us under a Necessity of providing for the Good and Safety of our Kingdoms, and of all our loving Subjects, who may be exposed to the Dangers of these Hostilities, without being authorized to repel Force by Force, we have been obliged with Regret to call to mind the many unfriendly and unjustifiable Acts, which have been done towards us and our Subjects, almost ever since our Accession to the Throne of these our Kingdoms. It would be endless to enumerate the Complaints of our Subjects, relating to the Infractions of Treaties, the Breach of ancient and established Privileges, and the unwarrantable Obstructions of their accustomed

Trade and Commerce, concerning which our several Ministers at the Court of Spain have, from time to time, given in Memorials and Representations; but notwithstanding their repeated and most pressing Instances, they have scarce ever obtained the least Redress from the Spanish Court, who rendered thereby ineffectual the Benefits and Advantages, which we hoped we had by Treaties and Conventions procured for our good Subjects. And it appearing to us further from the Conduct of the King of Spain, especially by the Instigation and pernicious Councils, as we conceive, of his Chief Minister (by whose Advice the true Interest of Spain seems entirely sacrificed, and the Subjects of that Country are not only neglected, but oppressed) that the said King, under the Colour of balancing the Power of the Emperour, and securing the Liberty of the Princes of Italy, raised great Armies, equipped great Numbers of Ships of War, and made unusual Preparations by Land and Sea, which tended to set on foot dangerous Designs of breaking through the Treaties of Utrecht and Baden, on which the Peace of Europe was founded, and of uniting, as Occasion should offer, upon one Head, the Crowns of France and Spain, the Separation whereof has already cost so much Blood and Treasure, and which ought in all Times to come to be prevented with the utmost Attention, and fenced against by all the Means which God hath put into the Hands of the neighbouring Princes and States concerned in that fatal Event. We omit the Encouragement given to the Pretender to our Crown, and his Abettors, the Endeavours to stir up other Princes against us, with the frequent Menaces thrown out, unbecoming the Dignity of Crowned Heads: All which, with many other Insults and Affronts, we were ready and willing to put up, in case we could have found the least Disposition in the said Court of Spain to entertain a good and reasonable Amity. But as these Proceedings have at last broke out into open Hostilities, and neither the Interposition of our good Brother the most Christian