

# The London Gazette.

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Westminster, January 20.

**H**IS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Sanderson, 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 to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,  
I have had such frequent Experience of the Wisdom and Zeal of this Parliament on many important Occasions, that it is with Pleasure I now meet you again, and I make no doubt but that your Endeavours for the Good and Service of your Country will be as successful, as they have hitherto been.

The distressed Condition of some of Our Protestant Brethren abroad, and the Negotiations and Engagements entered into by some Foreign Powers, which seem to have laid the Foundation of New Troubles and Disturbances in Europe, and to threaten My Subjects with the Loss of several of the most Advantageous Branches of their Trade, obliged Me, without any Loss of Time, to concert with other Powers such Measures, as might give a Check to the Ambitious Views of those, who are endeavouring to render themselves Formidable, and put a Stop to the farther Progress of such Dangerous Designs. For these Ends, I have entered into a Defensive Alliance with the Most Christian King, and the King of Prussia, to which several other Powers, and particularly the States General, have been invited to accede, and I have not the least Reason to doubt of their Concurrence. This Treaty shall in a short Time be laid before you.

By these Means, and by your Support and Assistance, I trust in God, I shall be able not only to Secure to My

own Subjects, the Enjoyment of many Valuable Rights and Privileges long since acquired for them by the most Solemn Treaties, but effectually to preserve the Peace and Balance of Europe, the only View and End of all My Endeavours.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the Estimates for the Service of this Year to be prepared and laid before you, which, from an Unwillingness I always have to put My Subjects to an Extraordinary Expence by any Unnecessary Precautions, are form'd upon the Foot of employing no greater Number of Forces, than was thought Necessary the last Year; for which, if the Supplies you give, shall be fully and effectually raised, I shall be enabled to have a Strong Fleet at Sea early in the Spring: If the Posture of Affairs shall at any Time make it necessary to augment Our Maritime Force, I Confide so entirely in the Zeal and Affection of My Parliament, that I assure My self you will enable Me to make such an Addition to the Number of Seamen, as shall be found Requisite.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It is not to be doubted but the Enemies to My Government will conceive Hopes, that some Favourable Opportunity for Renewing their Attempts, may offer, from the Prospect of New Troubles and Commotions: They are already very busy by their Instruments and Emissaries in those Courts, whose Measures seem most to favour their Purposes, in soliciting and promoting the Cause of the Pretender; But I persuade My self, notwithstanding the Countenance, and Encouragement they may have received, or flatter themselves with, the Provision you shall make for the Safety and Defence of the Kingdom, will effectually Secure Us from any Attempts from abroad, and render All such Projects Vain and Abortive.

When the World shall see that you will not suffer the British Crown and Nation to be Menaced and Insulted, those, who most Envy the present Happiness and Tranquillity of this Kingdom, and are endeavouring to make Us Subservient to their Ambition, will consider  
their

[ Price Two Pence. ]