

Absence of the Lord Bishop of that Diocese, introduced by the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Townshend one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State. Which Address His Majesty was pleased to receive very graciously.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty, The humble Address of the Bishop Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Exeter, and of the Clergy of the Diocese of Exeter.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's dutiful Subjects, the Clergy of the Diocese of Exeter, seeing not only the Commerce of your Kingdoms at once assaulted and undermined, but an Invasion of England agreed upon to inthroned the Enemy of our Religion; unless we should forget the Situation and particular Interests of these Countries, cannot be slow to acknowledge and implore the Continuance of your Majesty's Royal Cares in our Favour, and profess our chearful Dependence, under the Divine Aid, on your known Wisdom and Magnanimity.

Permit us at the same Time, most gracious Sovereign, to lay at your Feet, and publish to all the World this Testimony and Engagement of our Resolution, to support in our Stations the Measures taken by your Majesty for the necessary Defence of Church and State; their present Happiness and all their Interests are inseparably united with those of your Majesty and Royal Family; and our Conviction of that, makes our Zeal and Fidelity immovably the same for both. Religion, which inforces these Sentiments, obliges us also to propagate and fix them amongst a loyal and brave People.

And that it may please Almighty God to inspire all your Subjects with a full Sense of the Happiness He has given them under your Government, and the Duty thence resulting both to your Majesty and themselves, of a zealous and inviolable Union in your Service; and that he would crown your Counsels and Arms with the Success of reassuring the precious Rights of your People, Religious and Civil; a Success your Majesty so paternally, so christianly prefers to all the Glories of Conquest.

These are our fervent Prayers, and from the Conduct of Affairs our just Hopes, and they shall be sincerely followed with suitable Endeavours.

Madrid, Feb. 24, N. S. Our last Letters from the Camp before Gibraltar, are of the 19th Instant, and advise, that the Retardment of the March of the Artillery, occasioned by the Impracticableness of the Roads from the continual Rains fallen of late in those Parts, had obliged the Spaniards to suspend the opening of the Trenches: But that two or three

Days before, the Weather having changed and become fair, it was expected that in five or six Days more so many Pieces of the said Artillery might be brought up, as would suffice for their first Batteries; which was the only thing wanting for the opening of the Trenches, and what M. de Verboom, in Opposition to the Importunity of the Conde de las Torres, positively insisted upon, before any other Operation should be undertaken. All the Letters from the said Camp agree, that the Army is already weakened near a fourth Part, by Sickness and Desertion. His Catholick Majesty has been pleased to appoint Don Geronimo de Uzfariz to be Secretary of the Council of Finances, and Don Manos Montoto (who was one of the Duke de Ripperda's chief Clerks) to be Secretary of the Revenue called Millones. His Catholick Majesty has also granted to Don Guillermo Eon (the Director for the Assiento de Negros, who lately came from London) the Title and Rank of Counsellour for the Indies, with a Pension of Six Hundred Pistoles a Year. To-Morrow Night, their Catholick Majesties will remove from the Pardo to the Palace here, and the Day following will go to reside for some Weeks at the Buen-Retiro. It is advised from St. Andero, that they continue there with all possible Expedition the building of three Seventy Gun Ships, one of a Hundred and Sixteen Guns, and two Bomb-Vessels, which they expect will be ready to be launched by the End of April next: That a vast Quantity of Timber is daily brought thither upon Wheel-Carriages from the Mountains, the greatest Part of which is to be shipped off for Cadiz, where Ships are to be built, and the rest is to remain at St. Andero for the same Purpose: That the Rosario, a Frigate of 50 Guns lately built, commanded by Captain Baltazar Sherlock, and the St. Francis, another new-built Ship of the same Force, commanded by Captain Gaspar Rue, are completing their Men from what People they can gather upon that Coast and from Galicia. Letters from Malaga of the 18th Instant relate, that two Vessels were arrived there from Barcelona laden with Cannon-Ball for the Camp: And that the Duke of Wharton, with his Lady and Family, was to set out the Day following for the Spanish Camp.

Cadiz, Feb. 18, N. S. A Person who came hither Yesterday from the Spanish Camp, brought an Account, that Sir Charles Wager with his Squadron came into the Bay of Gibraltar the 13th Instant: This Person confirms, as indeed do all the Letters from that Camp, the great Sickness in the Spanish Army and Desertion from it: That besides the Hardships they suffer from the Severity of the Weather, they are in want of Provisions: That seven of the Cannon which went by Land from hence, were got to the Camp; and the rest he saw upon the Road