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AT the Court at St. James's, the 26th Day of November 1744.

P R E S E N T,

The King's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

This Day the Right Honourable William Earl of Harrington, Lord President of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, was, by His Majesty's Command, sworn one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Westminster, November 27.

His Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Charles Dalton, 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.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is always a great Satisfaction to me to meet you in Parliament, and it is particularly so, in this Conjunction, as the present Posture of Affairs Abroad requires your most serious Consideration. The Events of the last Summer have been so various, and some Things have fallen out, during the Course of it, so much to the Disadvantage of the Common Cause, the Consequences whereof remain still undecided, that great Attention must be given to them, and proper Measures taken for preventing or removing the ill Effects of them.

I have, in Pursuance of your repeated Advice, exerted my Endeavours for the Support of the House of Austria, and in the Prosecution of the just and necessary War in which we are engaged. The Queen of Hungary, though attacked and invaded by Powers, from whom she had the least Reason to expect such a Conduct, has shewn the greatest Constancy and Resolution; and the King of Poland, pursuant to his Engagements with her, hath sent a very considerable Force to her Assistance. The King of Sardinia, with a Magnanimity and Firmness superior to the greatest Difficulties, has, with the Assistance of my Fleet, resisted the Combined Forces of France and Spain, sent against him; and at last happily defeated an Enterprize formed for his Destruction, and for the Reduction of Italy, as well as most of the Ports in the Mediterranean, under the Power of the House of Bourbon. Though our Success has not been answerable to our Wishes,

yet the vast Expectations and Designs of our Enemies, built upon new Intrigues and Alliances, and an additional Strength, have not hitherto taken Place, and will, I hope, by the Blessing of God, and the mutual united Vigour of Great Britain, and her Allies, be disappointed. In Conjunction with them, and with their effectual Assistance, and your Support, I am determined to carry on the War in such a Manner, as may be most conducive to that important End, which is my sole Aim, a safe and honourable Peace; it being my firm Resolution never to abandon my Allies, and to procure the utmost Security to the Religion, Liberties, and Commerce of my Kingdoms.

For this Purpose I have always insisted, and am still endeavouring with my Allies, particularly my good Friends the States General of the United Provinces, to fix the certain Proportions of Forces and Expence, to be furnished by each of the Confederates, in the Prosecution of this just and necessary War.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year to be prepared and laid before you, and desire you to grant me such Supplies, as shall be requisite for the Security and Welfare of the Nation, and for carrying on such Measures, as it shall be necessary for Great Britain to pursue in the present extraordinary Crisis. I am deeply sensible of, and concerned for, the Burthens which lie upon my good Subjects; and you may be assured, that no Endeavours shall be wanting on my Part, to ease them in every Instance, where the Consequences of doing so, may not endanger their own true Interests.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have laid before you my Views and Intentions. Your Concurrence with me, in a steady Pursuit of them, will best manifest your Zeal for the Common Cause, lay the surest Foundation for the real Support, of our Allies, and for the Security and Prosperity of your Country: And nothing can add so much to the Weight and Efficacy of your Resolutions, as Unanimity and Dispatch.

Florence, Nov. 10. By an Estafette just arrived from Siena we have Advice, that all Intercourse between Rome and this Place is for the Present interrupted by the Spanish Army, to prevent any Notices being conveyed to Prince Lobcowitz, who decamped in the Night of the 1st Instant; and on the 5th dispatched an Officer hither from Monte Rosi, to acquaint the Great Duke's Ministers that he was arrived there. The Spaniards and Neapolitans did not venture

