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Westminster, November 18.

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 William Sanderson, Deputy 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,

I Have called you together, as early as the late Conclusion of the last Session of Parliament, and the Situation of publick Affairs would permit. During this Recess, I have been particularly attentive to extinguish any Remains of the late Rebellion; and to re-establish, and secure, our Tranquility at Home, so far as depended upon me. The Rest I have Reason to expect from your Zeal, and prudent Deliberations; of which the Foundation, already laid, gives me well-grounded Hopes.

In the mean Time, the State of the War Abroad, has received a considerable Alteration. Though France has made some further Progress in the Netherlands; yet the united Provinces, whose Interests are so strictly connected with ours, have been preserved from that Danger, which threatened them at the Opening of the Campaign; and a considerable Army remains there for their Defence. It has pleased God to bless the Arms of my good Allies the Empress Queen of Hungary, and the King of Sardinia, with signal Success in Italy. The Acquisitions, made there by our Enemies, have been recovered from them; their Forces, broken and almost ruined, have been obliged to evacuate that Country; and an Irruption is now actually making into France; whereby the Distresses of that Kingdom must be greatly encreased; and a proportionable Diversion made in Favour of the Low Countries.

I have often assured you, that my sole Aim in carrying on this just and necessary War, is a safe and honourable Peace. In this View, I have shewed a sincere Disposition towards a general

Pacification. I have consented to the Holding of Conferences at Breda, in Order to try, whether our Enemies will, in the Event, agree to such Terms, and Conditions, as may be consistent with the Honour of my Crown; the Security, and true Interests of my Kingdoms; and my Engagements to my Allies, whom it is my firm Resolution not to abandon.

But whilst we are treating of Peace, Reason and good Policy demand, that we should be prepared for War. I am therefore actually concerting with my Allies, the proper Measures for vigorously pursuing the War in another Campaign, in case the Obstinacy of our Enemies should render it necessary. My Desire is to adjust these Measures as speedily as possible, that our Preparations may be early; that the Confederate Army, in the Netherlands, may be augmented in Time; and the Operations on the Side of Italy, carried on with Effect. It shall also be my particular Care to exert our Strength at Sea, in the most effectual Manner, for the Defence of my Kingdoms, and Possessions; the Protection of the Trade of my Subjects; and the Annoyance of our Enemies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the Estimates for the ensuing Year to be prepared, and laid before you; and desire you to grant me such Supplies, as shall be requisite for your own Security; and for carrying on such Measures, as it shall be necessary for Great Britain to pursue, in the present important Conjuncture. It gives me much Concern to be obliged, at the same Time, to acquaint you, that by reason of the unavoidable Accidents, and Consequences of War, the Funds appropriated for the Support of my Civil Government, have, for some Years past, fallen greatly short of the Revenue intended, and granted, by Parliament: I therefore rely on your known Affection to me, to find out some Method to make good this Deficiency.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Nothing is so valuable, and essential to me, as your vigorous Support. On this I depend; and I trust you will demonstrate it, by the Zeal, Unanimity, and Dispatch of your Proceedings.

[Price Two-pence.]

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