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Westminster, November 13.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, the Honourable Sir Henry Bellenden, 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,

THE present critical Conjunction of Affairs, and my constant Inclination to have the Advice and Assistance of my Parliament on all important Occasions, have made me desirous to meet you here as early as possible.

Since your last Session, I have taken such Measures as might be most conducive to the Protection of our Possessions in America, and to the Regaining of such Parts thereof, as had been encroached upon, or invaded, in Violation of the Peace, and contrary to the Faith of the most solemn Treaties.

For this Purpose, the Maritime Force of this Kingdom has been got ready with the utmost Application and Expedition, and been principally employed; some Land Forces have been sent from hence to North America; and all proper Encouragement has been given to the several Colonies there, to exert themselves in their own Defence, and in the Maintenance of the Rights and Possessions of Great Britain.

With a sincere Desire to preserve my People from the Calamities of War, as well as to prevent, in the Midst of these Troubles, a general War from being lighted up in Europe, I have been always ready to accept reasonable and honourable Terms of Accommodation; but none such have hitherto been proposed on the Part of France. I have also confined my Views and Operations to hinder France from making new Encroachments, or supporting those already made; to exert our Right to a Satisfaction for Hostilities committed in a Time of profound Peace; and to disappoint such Designs, as, from various Appearances and Preparations, there is Reason to think, have been formed against my Kingdoms and Dominions.

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By these Methods, I have pursued the Plan which I formerly pointed out to you, and for which I had the Satisfaction to receive the strongest Assurances of your vigorous Support.

What other Power can object to Proceedings so absolutely necessary to our own Defence and Security? My good Brother, the King of Spain, sees with Concern these Differences; and the Part which he generously takes in the common Welfare of Europe, makes him earnestly wish the Preservation of the publick Tranquillity. He has also given Assurances, that he will continue in the same pacifick Sentiments.

In pursuing these great Ends, I make no Doubt of the vigorous and chearful Support of my Parliament; and that, whilst I am engaged in this just and national Cause, the affectionate Assurances which they gave me the last Session, will be effectually made good. In Consequence thereof, I have greatly increased my Naval Armaments; augmented my Land Forces in such a Manner as might be the least burthensome; and have concluded a Treaty with the Emperour of Russia, and another with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassell, which shall be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper Officers to lay before you Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year, and likewise Accounts of the extraordinary Expences which have been made this Year, in Pursuance of the Power given me by Parliament. I see, with great Concern, that the necessary Services before-mentioned will require large Supplies. I ask only such as shall be requisite for the effectual carrying on of those Measures, which shall be necessary to support what has been begun, according to your Inclination, for the Security of my Kingdoms and Dominions, and for the Purposes which have been already mentioned to you. Whatever you grant shall, with the strictest Economy, be applied to those Uses only for which it shall be given.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I rely upon your Duty and good Affections, which I have so often experienced. There never was a Situation in which my Honour, and the essential Interests of Great Britain, called more strongly for your Zeal, Unanimity, and Dispatch.

