

The London Gazette.

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From Tuesday December 9, to Saturday December 13, 1755.

Westminster, December 10.

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 give the Royal Assent to

An Act for continuing and granting to His Majesty, certain Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, for the Service of the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Six.

Whitehall, December 13.

The following Letter has been received from Abraham Castres, Esq; His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the King of Portugal.

S I R, *Lisbon, Nov. 6, 1755.*
YOU will, in all Likelihood, have heard before this, of the inexpressible Calamity befallen the whole Maritime Coast, and in particular this opulent City, now reduced to a Heap of Rubbish and Ruins, by a most tremendous Earthquake, on the 1st of this Month, followed by a Conflagration, which has done ten Times more Mischiefe than the Earthquake itself. I gave a short Account of our Misfortune to Sir Benjamin Keene, by a Spaniard, who promised, as all Intercourse by Post was at a Stand, to carry my Letter as far as Badajoz, and see it safe put into the Post House. It was merely to acquaint his Excellency, that, God be praised, my House stood out the Shocks, tho' greatly damaged; and that happening to be out of the Reach of the Flames, several of my Friends, burnt out of their Houses, had taken Refuge with me, where I have accommodated them, as well as I could, under Tents in my large Garden; nobody but Lord Charles Douglas, who is actually on Board the Packet, besides our Chaplain, and myself, having dared hitherto to sleep in my House, since the Day of our Disaster. The Consul and his Family have been saved, and are all well in a Country House not far from this City. Those with me at present, are the Dutch Minister, his Lady, and their three Children, with seven or eight of their Servants. The rest of my Company, of

the better Sort, consists of several Merchants of this Factory, who, for the most Part, have lost all they had; though some indeed, as Mess. Purry, and Mellish's House, and Mr. Raymond, and Burrell's, have had the good Fortune to save their Cash, either in Whole, or in Part. The Number of Dead and Wounded I can give no certain Account of as yet; in that Respect our poor Factory has escaped pretty well, considering the Number of Houses we have here.

I have lost my good and worthy Friend the Spanish Ambassador, who was crushed under his Door, as he attempted to make his Escape into the Street. This, with the Anguish I have been in, for these five Days past, occasioned by the dismal Accounts brought to us every Instant, of the Accidents befallen to one or other of our Acquaintance among the Nobility, who, for the most Part, are quite undone, has greatly affected me; but, in particular, the miserable Objects among the lower Sort of His Majesty's Subjects, who all fly to me for Bread, and lie scattered up and down in my Garden, with their Wives and Children. I have helped them all hitherto, and shall continue to do so, as long as Provisions do not fail us, which I hope will not be the Case, by the good Order M. de Carvalho has issued in that Respect. One of our great Misfortunes is, that we have neither an English or Dutch Man of War in the Harbour. Some of their Carpenters and Sailors would have been of great Use to me on this Occasion, in helping to prop up my House; for as the Weather, which has hitherto been remarkably fair, seems to threaten us with heavy Rains, it will be impossible for the Refugees in my Garden to hold it out much longer; and how to find Rooms in my House for them all, I am at a Loss to devise, the Floors of most of them shaking under our Feet, and must consequently be too weak to bear any Number of fresh Inhabitants.

The Roads for the first Days having been impracticable, it was but Yesterday I had the Honour, in Company with M. de la Calmette, of waiting upon the King of Portugal, and all the Royal Family, at Belem, whom we found encamped, none of the Royal Palaces being fit to harbour them. Though the Loss his most Faithful Majesty has sustained on this Occasion, is immense, and that his Capital City is utterly destroyed, he received us with more Serenity than we expected; and, among other Things, told us, that he owed great Thanks to Providence, for saving his and his Family's Lives; and that he was extremely glad to see us
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