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*Westminster, January 15, 1805.*

**T**HIS Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in His Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molyneux, 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,*

SINCE the End of the last Session, the Preparations of the Enemy for the Invasion of this Kingdom have been continued with incessant Activity; but no Attempt has been made to carry their repeated Menaces into Effect.

The Skill and Intrepidity of My Navy, the respectable and formidable State of My Army and Militia, the unabated Zeal and improved Discipline of a numerous Volunteer Force, and the general Ardor manifested by all Classes of My Subjects, have, indeed, been sufficient to deter them from so presumptuous and desperate an Enterprize. While this Spirit continues to animate the Country, and its voluntary Exertions for its own Defence subsist in their full Vigour, We need not fear the Consequences of the most powerful Efforts on the Part of the Enemy: But let us never forget that our Security has arisen from the Resolution with which we have met and provided against the Danger, and that it can be preserved only by steady Perseverance and unremitting Activity.

The Conduct of the Court of Spain, evidently under the predominant Influence and Controul of France, compelled Me to take prompt and decisive Measures to guard against the Effects of Hostility. I have, at the same Time, endeavoured, as long as it was possible, to prevent the Necessity of a Rupture; but, in consequence of the Refusal of a satisfactory Explanation, My Minister quitted Madrid, and War

has since been declared by Spain against this Country.

I have directed a Copy of the Manifesto, which I have caused to be prepared on this Occasion, to be laid before you, together with such Papers as are necessary to explain the Discussions which have taken place between Me and the Court of Madrid. You will, I trust, be convinced by them, that My Forbearance has been carried to the utmost Extent which the Interests of My Dominions would admit; and, while I lament the Situation of Spain, involved in Hostilities contrary to its true Interests, I rely with Confidence on your vigorous Support in a Contest which can be attributed only to the unfortunate Prevalence of French Counsels.

The general Conduct of the French Government on the Continent of Europe, has been marked by the utmost Violence and Outrage, and has shewn a wanton Defiance of the Rights of Neutral Territories, of the acknowledged Privileges of accredited Ministers, and of the established Principles of the Law of Nations.

Notwithstanding these Transactions, so repugnant to every Sentiment of Moderation and Justice, I have recently received a Communication from the French Government, containing Professions of a pacific Disposition. I have, in consequence, expressed My earnest Desire to embrace the first Opportunity of restoring the Blessings of Peace on such Grounds as may be consistent with the permanent Safety and Interests of My Dominions; but I am confident you will agree with Me, that those Objects are closely connected with the general Security of Europe; I have, therefore, not thought it right to enter into any more particular Explanation without previous Communication with those Powers on the Continent, with whom I am engaged in confidential Intercourse and Connection, with a View to that important Object, and especially with the Emperor of Russia, who has given the strongest Proofs of the wise and dignified Sentiments by which he is animated, and of