

the warm Interest he takes in the Safety and Independence of Europe.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed the Estimates for the public Service to be laid before you. I regret the Necessity of any additional Burdens being imposed on My People; but I am sure you will be sensible how much their future Safety and Happiness depend on the Vigour of our Exertions, and that in the Mode of raising the Supplies you will continue to shew your Anxiety for the Support of public Credit, and for restraining as much as possible the Accumulation of the National Debt.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

In considering the great Efforts and Sacrifices which the Nature of the Contest requires, it is a peculiar Satisfaction to Me to observe the many Proofs of the internal Wealth and Prosperity of the Country. It will, I am sure, be your great Object to maintain and improve these Advantages, and at the same Time to take all such Measures, as by enabling Me to prosecute the War with Vigour, may afford the best Prospect of bringing it to a safe and honourable Termination.

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 14th of January 1805,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

HIS Majesty in Council was this Day pleased to declare the Right Honorable Henry Viscount Sidmouth, Lord President of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, in the Room of His Grace William Henry Cavendish Duke of Portland, whom His Majesty has been graciously pleased to permit to retire from the said Office, on Account of Health; and Lord Viscount Sidmouth took his Place at the Board accordingly.

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to deliver the Custody of the Seals of the Dutchy and County-Palatine of Lancaster to the Right Honorable Robert Earl of Buckinghamshire, the Oath of Chancellor of the said Dutchy was this Day, by His Majesty's Command, administered to his Lordship.

This Day the Right Honorable John Hookham Erere, the Right Honorable Nicholas Vansittart, the Right Honorable Reginald Pole Carew, and the Right Honorable John Sullivan, were, by His Majesty's Command, sworn of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, and took their respective Places at the Board accordingly.

AT the Court at the *Queen's Palace*, the 11th of January 1805,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS His Majesty has received Information that the King of Spain has issued a Declaration of War against His Majesty, His Sub-

jects, and People; His Majesty, therefore, being determined to take such Measures as are necessary for vindicating the Honor of His Crown, and for the vigorous Prosecution of the War in which He finds himself engaged, is pleased, by and with the Advice of His Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that General Reprisals be granted against the Ships, Goods, and Subjects of the King of Spain, so that as well His Majesty's Fleets and Ships, as also all other Ships and Vessels that shall be commissioned, by Letters of Marque, or General Reprisals, or otherwise, by His Majesty's Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the King of Spain, or his Subjects, or others inhabiting within the Territories of the King of Spain, and bring the same to Judgment in any of the Courts of Admiralty within His Majesty's Dominions; and, to that End, His Majesty's Advocate-General, with the Advocate of the Admiralty, are forthwith to prepare the Draft of a Commission, and present the same to His Majesty at this Board, authorizing the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, or any Person or Persons by them empowered and appointed, to issue forth and grant Letters of Marque and Reprisals to any of His Majesty's Subjects, or others whom the said Commissioners shall deem fitly qualified in that Behalf, for the apprehending, seizing, and taking the Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to Spain, and the Vassals and Subjects of the King of Spain, or any inhabiting within His Countries, Territories, or Dominions; and that such Powers and Clauses be inserted in the said Commission, as have been usual, and are according to former Precedents; and His Majesty's said Advocate-General, with the Advocate of the Admiralty, are also forthwith to prepare the Draft of a Commission, and present the same to His Majesty at this Board, authorizing the said Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral, to will and require the High Court of Admiralty of Great Britain, and the Lieutenant and Judge of the said Court, his Surrogate or Surrogates, as also the several Courts of Admiralty within His Majesty's Dominions, to take Cognizance of, and judicially proceed upon all, and all Manner of Captures, Seizures, Prizes, and Reprisals of all Ships and Goods that are or shall be taken, and to hear and determine the same; and, according to the Course of Admiralty, and the Laws of Nations, to adjudge and condemn all such Ships, Vessels, and Goods as shall belong to Spain, or the Vassals and Subjects of the King of Spain, or to any others inhabiting within any of his Countries, Territories, and Dominions; and that such Powers and Clauses be inserted in the said Commission as have been usual, and are according to former Precedents; and they are likewise to prepare and lay before His Majesty at this Board a Draft of such Instructions as may be proper to be sent to the Courts of Admiralty in His Majesty's foreign Governments and Plantations for their Guidance herein; as also another Draft of Instructions for such Ships as shall be commissioned for the Purposes afore-mentioned.

Eldon, C.
Montrose.
Camden.
Melville.