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FROM TUESDAY, JANUARY 15. TO FRIDAY, JANUARY 18. 1805.

Westminster, Jan. 15.

This 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 ardour manifested by all classes of my subjects, have indeed been sufficient to deter them from so presumptuous and desperate an enterprise. 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 ef-

fects 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 difficulties 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 Councils.

" 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 confi-

dent 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 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.

[Price 6d.]

