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Dublin Castle, October 22.

THIS Day the Parliament having met according to Appointment, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant went in State to the House of Peers; and being seated on the Throne, with the usual Ceremony, his Excellency sent for the Commons, and directed them to chuse a Speaker: And they having unanimously elected the Right Honourable John Ponsoby, Esq; into that Office, he was by them presented, and was approved by his Excellency. And then his Excellency made the following Speech to both Houses.

His Excellency George Dunk, Earl of Halifax, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, his Speech to both Houses of Parliament at Dublin, on Thursday the 22d Day of October, 1761.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have the Honour of His Majesty's Commands to meet this His first Parliament in Ireland: I obey them with entire Satisfaction, from an Assurance, that your Deliberations will be influenced by the same Principles of Loyalty and Affection to your Sovereign, and of Zeal for the Prosperity of your Country, which have so long distinguished the Parliaments of this Kingdom.

The Loss of our late most Gracious Sovereign, at a Time when not only the Security of His own Dominions, but the Welfare of Europe, seemed so essentially to depend on the Continuance of His Life, must have affected you in the most sensible Manner.

Your Grief however has already been alleviated, and your Loss repaired by the Succession of His Majesty, not only to the Throne, (His legal Inheritance,) but to the Duty, Affection and Confidence of His Subjects, as unbounded as the greatest of His Predecessors have ever possessed in the most fortunate Periods of their Reign.

This Parliament happily commences with the Accession of a King, bred under the Influence and formed by the Example, of a Prince, who uniformly tempered Prerogative with Law; and whose Glory it was, in the Exercise of His Power, to protect the Rights and Liberties of His People.

You can be no Strangers to His Majesty's most gracious Declaration, that the Preservation of the Constitution in Church and State, and the enforcing a due Obedience to the Laws, (not more necessary to His own Authority than to the Liberties of His People,) shall be the first and constant Object of His Care. And I have it particularly in Command to declare to you, that His Subjects of this Kingdom are fully and in every Respect comprehended in these Assurances.

His Majesty's wife Choice of a Royal Consort, eminent for Her personal Virtues and Endowments, and descended from an House so illustrious for its Attachment to the Protestant Cause, displays in the clearest Light His paternal Care, not only to preserve to us, but transmit unimpaired to our Posterity, the Blessings of His Reign, Liberty and pure Religion.

When I consider the Security of our present, and the Prospect of our future Happiness; and when I see you animated, as I am persuaded you are, with every Sentiment which Loyalty and Gratitude can inspire; I assure myself of a Session of Parliament, that will be distinguished by its uninterrupted Harmony; and by its effective Zeal for the Support of the Honour and Dignity of the Crown. Such Disposi-

tions, steadily adhered to, cannot fail, under His Majesty's paternal Influence, to preserve you an happy, and to establish you an opulent and a flourishing People.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper Officers to lay before you the several Accounts and Estimates; from which you will be enabled to judge of the Provisions necessary to be made for the Support of His Majesty's Government, and for your own Security. The Means of making those Provisions, (which I hope will be expeditiously adjusted,) I doubt not will, on your Part, be such as shall be most suitable to the Circumstances of this Country; On mine, you may depend upon the utmost Frugality.

You will take into your Consideration the several incidental Charges of the Military Establishment, as it now stands, of which exact Estimates cannot be formed; and also that a large Sum will be wanted for the effectual Repair of the Barracks; a Work, which cannot be delayed.

I must observe to you, that, notwithstanding the Authority given by the Vote of Credit of the last Parliament, the Sum of two hundred thousand Pounds only has been raised; a Circumstance of Oeconomy, which cannot fail to give you Satisfaction.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Improvement of your natural Advantages ought to be the Object of your most serious Attention. Agriculture, the surest Support of every State, deserves at all Times your highest Regard, to the End that, through your Wisdom, the Skill and Industry of the Inhabitants of this Country may fully correspond with the Bounty of Providence in their Favour.

To encourage, regulate and improve, which will of Course extend, your Manufactures and your Commerce, will, I am sure, be your continual Care. Your Linen Trade has long and justly been the Object of public Encouragement; but much still remains to carry to its full Extent a Manufacture, for which there is so large a Demand; which is so various in its Branches; and which, with due Attention, might be rendered as considerable a Source of Wealth to the whole, as it is now to Part of this Kingdom.

There is no Object more worthy our Attention than our Protestant Charter Schools. Notwithstanding the peaceable Demeanour of the Papists in this Kingdom, it must always be your Duty and your Interest to divert from Error, by every effectual, though gentle, Method, the deluded Followers of a blind Religion. And these Institutions merit your Support and Protection, not only as Schools of Religion, but as Seminaries of useful Arts and virtuous Industry.

Let me now in the most earnest Manner recommend to you, that, after so many honourable Events abroad, and so many joyful Events at Home, neither Jealousies, nor Distrusts, neither public Heats, nor private Animosities, may disturb that Tranquillity, which is desirable at all Times, and at this Season is peculiarly necessary to your Welfare.

As to what regards myself, you shall always find me not only ready, but solicitous, to contribute whatever my Authority, my Credit, or my Experience can furnish for these salutary Purposes. And I can with Truth assure you, that I shall in no Degree fulfil the Intentions, nor merit the Approbation of my Royal Master, but by studying the Peace and Welfare of the Kingdom which His Majesty has committed to my Care.