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Whitehall, November 26, 1762.

ONE of the King's Messengers, dispatched by the Duke of Bedford, arrived here this Morning with the Ratifications of their Most Christian, and Catholick Majesties, of the Preliminary Articles signed the 3d Instant, which were exchanged with his Grace, the 22d, at Versailles, by the Ministers Plenipotentiary of Those Princes, against Those of His Majesty. Upon which Occasion the Tower and Park Guns were immediately fired.

Westminster, November 25.

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 Septimus Robinson, Knt. 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,

I Found, on my Accession to the Throne, these My Kingdoms engaged in a bloody and expensive War. I resolved to prosecute it with the utmost Vigour; determined, however, to consent to Peace, upon just and honourable Terms, whenever the Events of War should incline the Enemy to the same pacifick Disposition.

A Negotiation was accordingly begun last Year, which proved ineffectual. The War became afterwards more general, by the Resolution of the Court of Madrid to take Part with My Enemy, notwithstanding My best Endeavours to prevent it.

This, with the unexpected Attack of My natural and good Ally the King of Portugal, greatly affected Our Commerce, multiplied the Objects of Our Military Operations, and increased Our Difficulties, by adding to the heavy Burthens under which this Country already laboured.

My Object still continued the same, to attain an honourable Peace, by pursuing this more extensive War in the most vigorous Manner. I embraced therefore an Occasion offered me, of renewing the Negotiation; but at the same Time I exerted so effectually the Strength which you had put into My Hands, and have been so well served by My Fleets and Armies in the Execution of My Plans, that History cannot furnish Examples of greater Glory, or greater Advantages acquired by the Arms of this, or any other Nation, in so short a Period of Time. My General Prince Ferdinand of Brunwick, and my Army in Germany, have gained immortal Honour, by many signal Advantages obtained during the Course of

this Campaign, over an Enemy superior in Numbers: The Progress of the French and Spanish Armies in Portugal has been stop'd; and that Kingdom preserved by the Firmness and Resolution of its Sovereign, and by the Military Talents of the Reigning Count La Lippe, seconded by the Valour of the Troops under his Command. Martinico, and other Islands in the West Indies, have been conquered; the Havannah, a Place of the utmost Importance to Spain, is in My Possession; and with it great Treasures, and a very considerable Part of the Navy of Spain, are fallen into Our Hands.

I cannot mention these Achievements, which reflect such Honour on My Crown, without giving My publick Testimony to the unwearied Perseverance, and unparalleled Bravery of My Officers and Private Men, by Sea and Land, who, by repeated Proofs, have shewn, that no Climate, no Hardships, no Dangers, can check the Ardor, or resist the Valour of the British Arms.

Next to the Assistance of Almighty God, it is owing to their Conduct and Courage, that My Enemies have been brought to accept of Peace on such Terms, as, I trust, will give my Parliament entire Satisfaction. Preliminary Articles have been signed by My Minister, with those of France and Spain, which I will order in due Time to be laid before you.

The Conditions of these are such, that there is not only an immense Territory added to the Empire of Great Britain, but a solid Foundation laid for the Increase of Trade and Commerce; and the utmost Care has been taken to remove all Occasions of future Disputes between My Subjects, and those of France and Spain, and thereby to add Security and Permanency to the Blessings of Peace.

While I carefully attended to the essential Interests of My own Kingdoms, I have had the utmost Regard to the good Faith of My Crown, and the Interests of My Allies. I have made Peace for the King of Portugal, securing to him all his Dominions; and all the Territories of the King of Prussia, as well as of My other Allies in Germany, or elsewhere, occupied by the Armies of France, are to be immediately evacuated.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper Estimates to be laid before you; and shall, without Delay, proceed to make Reductions to the utmost Extent, wherever they may be found consistent with Wisdom and sound Policy. It is the greatest Affliction for Me to find, that though the War is at an End, Our Expences cannot immediately be so much lessened as I desire; but as nothing could have carried Us through the great and arduous Difficulties surrounding Us, but the most vigorous and expensive Efforts, We must expect, for some Time, to feel the Consequences of them to a considerable Degree.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It was impossible to execute what this Nation has so gloriously performed in all Parts of the World, without