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Westminster, November 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 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,

THE Re-establishment of the Publick Tranquility, upon Terms of Honor and Advantage to My Kingdoms, was the first great Object of My Reign: That salutary Measure has received the Approbation of My Parliament, and has since been happily completed, and carried into Execution, by the Definitive Treaty. It has been, and shall be My Endeavour to ensure the Continuance of the Peace, by a faithful and steady Adherence to the Conditions upon which it was concluded: And I have the Satisfaction to acquaint you, that the several Powers of Europe, who were engaged against Us in the late War, have given Me the strongest Assurances of the same good Disposition. Our Principal Care ought now to be employed to improve the valuable Acquisitions, which We have made, and to cultivate the Arts of Peace in such a Manner, as may most effectually contribute to extend the Commerce, and to augment the Happiness of My Kingdoms.

For these great Purposes I have called you together. It will ever be My earnest Will and Endeavour to demonstrate to My People, by My Actions, the Love which I bear them; and I doubt not of receiving from them the grateful and just Returns of Duty and Affection.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper Estimates for the Service of the Year to be laid before you. The heavy Debts contracted in the Course of the late War, for many of which no Provision is yet made, call for your utmost Attention and the strictest Frugality. I must however earnestly recommend to you the Support of My Fleet, to which Our past Successes have been so much owing, and upon which the future Welfare and Importance of Great Britain do most essentially depend. To ease My People of some Part of their Burthens, I have directed, as I promised at the end of the last Session of Parliament, that the Money arising from the Sale of the Prizes vested in the Crown, should be applied to the Publick Service. It is My Intention to reserve, for the same Use, whatever Sums shall be produced by the Sale of any of the Lands belonging to Me in the Islands of the West Indies, which were ceded to Us by the late Treaty.

The Improvement of the Publick Revenue, by such Regulations as shall be judged most expedient for that Purpose, deserves your serious Consideration.

This will be the surest Means of reducing the National Debt, and of relieving My Subjects from those Burthens, which the Expences of the late War have brought upon them; and will, at the same Time, establish the Publick Credit upon the most solid Foundation.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As the Interests and Prosperity of My People are the sole Objects of My Care, I have only to desire, that you will pursue such Measures, as are conducive to those Ends, with Dispatch and Unanimity. Domestic Union will be essentially necessary to remedy those Evils which are the Consequences of War, to enable us to reap the most permanent Advantages from the Conclusion of the Peace, and to discourage that licentious Spirit, which is repugnant to the true Principles of Liberty, and of this happy Constitution. In this Opinion I trust that My Subjects will be confirmed by your Example; and that they will be taught by your Proceedings, to unite their utmost Endeavours to support such Measures, as may equally tend to the Honor and Dignity of My Crown, and to their own Security and Happiness.

AT the Court at St. James's, the 4th Day of November 1763,

P R E S E N T,

The KING's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this Day read at the Board, the humble Petition of several Merchants, whose Names were thereunto subscribed, in Behalf of themselves and others His Majesty's Subjects trading to and from the Kingdom of Spain; setting forth, That by the Restoration of the Peace, British Ships are no longer liable to be stop'd or visited by Cruisers, and to other Accidents on those Seas, which exposed them to Infection in Time of War; That there is very seldom any Communication or Inter-course of Trade between those Ports in the Levant, Barbary, and other Places where the Plague usually breaks out, and the Ports of Spain; and when any Ship or Vessel, that has touched at any other Port or Ports in the Streights (even suspected of having Communication with infected Places) arrives at a Spanish Port, she is always subjected to perform a regular Quarantine before she is admitted into Port; That the Dutch, Hamburgers, Danes, Swedes, and other Nations, do not subject their Trade from those Ports to Quarantine, or to any Delay upon that Account, nor did they do it even during the last War; That the Continuance of the Quarantine will be attended with a great Deal of Vexation to the Petitioners, Difficulties and Delays in their Trade, as well as Expence, and consequently very injurious to that Part of the British Commerce and Navigation, particularly in regard to perishable Goods: And as the Cause for establishing the said Quarantine is intirely removed, the Petitioners humbly pray, that the Quarantine may be taken off