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Westminster, November 24.

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, 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 Have chosen to call you together at this Session of the Year, that My Parliament might have full Time for their Deliberations upon all such Branches of the Publick Service as may require their immediate Attention, without the Necessity of continuing the Session beyond the Time most suitable to My People for the Election of a new Parliament: And I doubt not, but you will be careful, from the same Considerations, to avoid, in your Proceedings, all unnecessary Delay.

Nothing in the present Situation of Affairs Abroad gives me Reason to apprehend, that you will be prevented, by any Interruption of the publick Tranquillity, from fixing your whole Attention upon such Points as concern the internal Welfare and Prosperity of My People.

Among these Objects of a Domestic Nature, none can demand a more speedy or more serious Attention, than what regards the high Price of Corn, which, neither the salutary Laws passed in the last Session of Parliament, nor the Produce of the late Harvest, have yet been able so far to reduce, as to give sufficient Relief to the Distresses of the poorer Sort of My People. Your late Residence in your several Countries must have enabled you to judge, whether any farther Provisions can be made, conducive to the Attainment of so desirable an End.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper Officers to lay before you the Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year.

The Experience I have had of your constant Readiness to grant Me all such Supplies as should be found necessary, for the Security, Interest, and Honor of the Nation, (and I have no other to ask of you) renders it unnecessary for Me to add any Exhortations upon this Head; and I doubt not, but the same Publick Considerations

will induce you to persevere, with equal Alacrity, in your Endeavors to diminish the National Debt; while, on My Part, no Care shall be wanting to contribute, as far as possible, to the Attainment of that most essential Object, by every frugal Application of such Supplies, as you shall grant.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Necessity of improving the present general Tranquillity to the great Purpose of maintaining the Strength, the Reputation, and the Prosperity of this Country, ought to be ever before your Eyes. To render your Deliberations for that Purpose successful, endeavor to cultivate a Spirit of Harmony among yourselves. My Concurrence in whatever will promote the Happiness of My People, you may always depend upon: And in that Light, I shall ever be desirous of encouraging Union among all those, who wish well to their Country.

Naples, October 27. A Courier from Vienna arrived here on Saturday last with the melancholy Account of the Death of the Archduchess Maria Josepha: The Court and City are in great Affliction upon this unhappy Event.

Last Week has exhibited repeated Scenes of Horror, the Eruption of Mount Vesuvius having continued with great Violence: Many fine Vineyards are destroyed; and some Villa's; but his Sicilian Majesty's Palace and the Museum of Portici have escaped, by the Lava's taking another Course, when it was within a Mile and an Half of them. From Monday last till this Day, although the Weather has been fine and calm, we have not seen the Sun clear; and some Days the Ashes were so thick in the Air, as to give the Sun the Appearance of a clouded Moon. The Concussion of the Air from the Explosions of the Mountain were so violent on Monday and Tuesday Nights, and on Thursday Noon, that many Doors and Windows, even at Naples, were forced open by them. At Portici, in the King's Palace, a Door that was locked was forced open; yet we do not find, except upon the Mountain itself, that there have been any Earthquakes. The Explosions and Concussions of the Air were most terrible on Thursday. We observed, that the Noise generally continued, each Time, between Five and Six Hours, and then ceased as suddenly as it began. The Stones thrown up by these Explosions were of an enormous Size, and were thrown between Five and Six Hundred Feet high, and

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