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Westminster, November 26.

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,

I SHOULD most willingly have consulted your private Convenience, by allowing you a longer Recess from Business, if I had not thought that some very important Parts of the Public Service required the immediate Attention of Parliament.

It is impossible that I can look with Indifference upon whatever concerns either the Commerce and Revenue of the Kingdom at large, or the private Rights and Interests of considerable Numbers among My People. Neither can I be insensible how materially every one of these great Objects must be interested in the Maintenance of the Credit, and Profits, of the East-India Company. When, therefore, I received Information of the Difficulties which that Company appear to be involved in, I desired to give you an early Opportunity of informing yourselves fully of the true State of their Affairs, and of making such Provisions for the continuance of the Security of all the various Interests of My People, as you shall find best adapted to the present Circumstances.

I have also desired to acquaint you, That there is Reason to hope, that the War, which has so long unhappily prevailed in one Part of Europe, is now drawing to a Conclusion: And although there was no Probability of Our being involved therein, yet the Discontinuance of those Troubles will afford a fairer Prospect of the Duration of Peace; which, I trust, the Alterations that have happened in Europe will not, in their Consequences, affect.

I continue to receive, from Foreign Powers, the strongest Assurances of their pacific Dispositions towards this Country: And it shall be My constant Endeavour to preserve the general Tranquility, as far as is consistent with the Honour of My Crown, and the Interests of My People.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

It gives Me much Satisfaction, That the Continuance of Peace has enabled me to proceed in the Reduction of the Establishment of My Naval Forces; but you will, I am confident, agree with Me, That a considerable Strength at Sea must be ever necessary for preserving the Reputation, and Power, of My Kingdoms.

The proper Estimates for the ensuing Year shall be laid before you; and whatever Supplies you may

grant shall, on My Part, be managed with the strictest Economy, and applied with the utmost Fidelity.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I cannot but feel the most real Concern, That the Produce of the late Harvest has not given Us the Relief which We had hoped for in Respect to the Dearness of Corn. As far as Human Wisdom can provide for alleviating the Distresses of the Poor, I am persuaded, your Attention will not be wanting: And you cannot gratify Me more, than by calling upon Me for My Concurrence in whatever may contribute to the true Welfare, and Happiness, of all My People.

St. James's, November 25.

This Day Their Majesties came from Kew to the Queen's Palace, to reside during the Winter.

Whitehall, November 28.

By Dispatches, which were Yesterday received from the Island of Antigua, we are more particularly informed of the Circumstances attending the Hurricane, on the 31st of August last, which is stated to have been more violent and destructive than has ever been known to have happened there, in the Memory of the oldest Person in that Island.

By these Dispatches it appears, that the Wind, which began to blow fresh on the Evening of the 30th of August, continued to increase till Five in the Morning of the next Day, when it raged with inconceivable Fury and Violence.

The Damage done to the Plantations and to the Houses of the Planters, (many of which have been entirely destroyed, and few or none escaped without some Marks of Desolation) cannot be estimated. Many Lives were lost, and a Number of Families, who abandoned their Habitations, and retired to the Fields for Shelter, were exposed to great Misery and Distress, from the Fury of the Storm, which continued the whole Day, and the Situation of the Inhabitants in general was rendered more alarming by a Scarcity of Provisions.

The House, in which His Majesty's Governor resided, was entirely destroyed, with all his Furniture and Papers; and the Wind having forced its Way through the Windows and Doors of the Court-House, the whole Interior of that Building was torn in Pieces, and the publick Records either lost, or so defaced as to become totally useless; and the Barracks, built for the Reception of His Majesty's Troops, have received so much Damage as to be uninhabitable.

The Effect of this Tempest was not less fatal at Sea than upon the Land. All the Trading Vessels, which were at Antigua on the Day of the Hurricane, were destroyed; and His Majesty's Squadron lying in English Harbour, though accounted the safest in the West Indies, were driven from their Anchors and forced on Shore; they have however