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From Tuesday January 11, to Saturday January 15, 1774

Westminster, January 13.

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,

THE unusual Length of the last Session of Parliament made Me desirous of giving you as long a Recess as the Publick Service would admit. I have, therefore, been glad to find Myself under no Necessity of calling you from your respective Counties at an earlier Season; and I doubt not but you are now met together, in the best Disposition, for applying yourselves to the Dispatch of the Publick Business.

You will, I am persuaded, agree with Me in regretting, that the Peace, so long expected and so very desirable, is not yet effected between Russia and the Porte; but it is with real Satisfaction I can repeat, that other Foreign Powers continue still to have the same pacifick Dispositions with Myself. I can have no other Wish than to see the general Tranquillity restored: For the Establishment and subsequent Preservation of which, no Endeavours of Mine, consistent with the Honour of My Crown and the Interests of My People, shall ever be wanting.

In this State of Foreign Affairs, you will have full Leisure to attend to the Improvement of Our internal and domestick Situation, and to the Prosecution of Measures more immediately respecting the Preservation and Advancement of the Revenue and Commerce of the Kingdom. Among the Objects which, in this View, will come under your Consideration, none can better deserve your Attention than the State of the Gold Coin; which I must recommend to you in a more particular Manner, as well on account of its very high Importance, as of the peculiar Advantages which the present Time affords, for executing with Success such Measures as you may find it expedient to adopt, with respect to this great National Concern.

The Degree of Diminution which that Coin had actually suffered, and the very rapid Progress which the Mischief was daily making, were truly alarming. It is with much Satisfaction that I have seen the Evil, in a great Measure, checked by the Regulations made in the last Session of Parliament. I trust, however, that you will not stop here, nor think that you have discharged your Duty, either to your Country or your Fellow Subjects, without using your best Endeavours for putting the Gold Coin upon such a Footing, as may not only completely remove the present Grievance, but render the Credit and Commerce of the Kingdom sufficiently secure from being again exposed to the like Danger.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered the proper Estimates for the current Year to be laid before you, and rely on your Readiness to grant Me such Supplies as shall be found requisite in the present Situation of Affairs.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

The Experience I have had of your past Conduct leaves Me no Room to doubt, either of your Zeal

or Prudence, in your Endeavours to promote the Welfare of your Country. You will not suffer any Parts of the Publick Service to escape your Attention; but, various and extensive as those are, you will be careful to select, for your immediate Deliberation, such of them as shall appear to be most important: And you can propose no Measures, that will serve either to secure or advance the Happiness and Prosperity of My People, in which you may not always depend on My most hearty Concurrence.

Messina, December 6. During the very bad Weather we have had here of late, several Ships of different Nations have been wrecked on the Coasts of this Kingdom, but happily none belonging to Great Britain.

Lord Chamberlain's Office, January 15, 1774.

Notice is hereby given, That, as Her Majesty's Birth-Day will be kept on Tuesday next at St. James's, there will be no Levée there on Monday the 17th Instant.

General Post-Office, January 11, 1774.

WILLIAM Harvey, of Amersham in the County of Bucks, Innholder, and Deputy-Postmaster of that Place, stands charged upon Oath, on a violent Suspicion of having feloniously stolen out of the Post-Office there, several Bank Notes and Bills contained in Letters sent by the Post.

The said William Harvey absconded from his Dwelling-House at Amersham aforesaid, on Sunday last the 9th Instant. He is about forty Years of Age; five Feet six Inches high, very fat, short Neck, and carries his Head very upright; is remarkably full chested, rather a black Complexion, short thick Nose, very full Eyes, wears a black curled Wig with a Tyburn Top, and is supposed to have had on a brown Coat and red Waistcoat when he absconded.

Whoever shall apprehend and convict, or cause to be apprehended and convicted, the said William Harvey; will be intitled to a Reward of FIFTY POUNDS:

By Command of the Postmaster General,

Anth. Todd, Secretary.

General Post Office, January 3, 1774.

THE Post-boy who was robbed of the Mail from London, of the 21st of December, was again robbed at Eleven o'Clock on Friday Night last, near Casterton, two Miles North of Stamford, of the Mail of Thursday Night, from this Office, by the same Person, as he verily believes, who robbed him before; and who opened the following Bags, viz. Lincoln, Hull; Grantam, Newcastle, Belford, Morpeth, Alnwick; Berwick, and the Bye Bag, with the Letters from Cuxton, for the North, and took something out of one of them, but he does not know which, and then put the Mail upon the Cart, not suffering the Boy to alight.

The Person is now described to be middle-aged, rather more than Five Feet high, of a pale Complexion, weak Voice, dark short brown or black Hair, rather bulky, was dressed in a blue Great Coat, with two Rows of white Buttons, had on a round bound Hat, with a black Crape round it, and dirty Leather Breeches.

Whoever shall apprehend and convict, or cause to be apprehended and convicted, the Person who committed this Robbery, will be intitled to a Reward of TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, over and above the Reward given by Act of Parliament for apprehending Highwaymen; or if any Person, whether an Accomplice in the Robbery or knowing thereof, shall make Discovery

