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*Translation of his Catholick Majesty's Declaration of War against the Emperor of Morocco.*

**W**HEREAS at the Adjustment of Peace with the King of Morocco, the Renewal and fixing the Boundaries of the Territory, which is annexed to my Forts on the Coasts of that Kingdom, were settled, as also the Restitution of Deserters, and various other Conditions, which all testify the said Prince's Recognition of the incontestible Right in my Crown to those Places, situated in Countries, which had been Part of the Spanish Monarchy; and although by the very Act of the King of Morocco himself having complied with these Stipulations, it appears, that living in Peace with Christians who occupied those Places in Africa, was not inconsistent with the Sect which he professes; notwithstanding all this, he, doubtless not attending to all the Advantages which he receives from Peace and Commerce with my Dominions, has written me a Letter, in which, founding himself upon Maxims and Principles of his own Sect and Policy, strange and new ones entirely, compared with those received among European Nations, he tells me, that he will make War against these Forts, and pretends, at the same Time, that such a Step is not to interrupt the Friendship, the Intercourse and Commerce, betwixt our respective States, &c. as appears from the Tenor of the said Letter; which, being translated from the Arabic, is literally as follows:

"In the Name of the merciful God, and there is no Help but in the Great God.

"Mohomed Ben Abdalla. (L. S.) The 15th of the Month of Reged, in the Year 1188.

"To the King of Spain.

"Health to him who follows the Law, and persists therein. Know Ye, that We are in Peace with You according to the Treaties of Peace made between Us and You: But the Mahometans of our Dominions, and of Algiers, have agreed, saying, That they will not suffer any Christian whatever to be on the Coasts of Mahometan Countries from Ceuta to Oran, and they will recover to themselves the Possession of them: For which Reason they have requested Us to attend seriously to this Affair, saying, *Thou hast no Excuse for remaining quiet, or consenting that Mahometan Countries should remain in the Power of Christians, at a Time when God hath given thee Forces and warlike Instruments, such as no one else hath.* It was not possible for Us not to attend to their Instances, or assist them upon this Subject: And now we are desirous of taking the Matter into Consideration. If the Algerines undertake the War together with Us, as they have desired to do,

"it is well; but if they withdraw themselves and oppose what they themselves have desired, We will consider them as Enemies, and fight in Person against all, till God shall decide between Us and them. And this Business is not against the Peace which subsists betwixt Us and You: Your Traders and their Ships will remain as before, and will take their Provisions and other Things from any of our Ports, as they please, conforming to the Customs now observed in them, agreeably to the Marine Treaty between our respective Caravels; And your Ships will receive no Damage, so that your Subjects will trade in all our Dominions, and will travel by Land and by Sea, with all Security, and nobody will hurt them, because We have established Peace with You, which We will not break, if You, on your Part, do not:— In which Case you will be allowed four Months, that every body may know it; and what we have said, concerning our going to the said Countries, is, because we are obliged to it, and have no Method of excusing ourselves from it. But with respect to Peace at Sea We will do according to our own Will. And now We give You an Account of the Truth of this Business, that You may be advised thereof, and consider what suits You. And We have signed this Letter with our own Illustrious Hand, that You may be assured of it's Certainty. Greeting, the 15th Day of the Month of Reged, in the Year 1188, (19th September, 1774.)"

And judging it unbecoming my Sovereignty to listen to, much less to admit, such Propositions; and being besides informed, that the Person who was charged by the King of Morocco to deliver this Letter to the Governor of Ceuta for me, had declared, that, in Proof of the Peace being at an End, the Moors in the Camp would fire against the Fort with Ball as soon as he had left it, which they actually did; and being informed, that the said Moors have since continued to fire against certain Fishermens Boats, which were near them as usual, by which Hostilities the Moors have broken the Peace; I have resolved, upon account of these Acts, and from the Time they were committed, to declare, that it is to be understood, that the Friendship and good Harmony with the King of Morocco is interrupted, all Communication is to cease between my Subjects and His, and Things to return to the State of War, by Sea and Land, in which they were before the Treaty was settled; keeping up only the 17th Article of it, in which it was stipulated, that, in case of a Rupture, Six Months should be allowed to the Individuals of both Nation: to retire freely to their respective Countries with their Goods and Effects, which I order shall be kept and observed punctually with the Morocco Subjects; being persuaded, that that Prince will observe the same with respect to mine. And whereas lately, the King of Morocco having sent me some Spanish Captives, which he had obtained from the Regency at Algiers, I did order the Alcaide who brought

