

# The London Gazette.

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*Westminster, November 27.*

**T**HIS 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,*

**W**HEN I last met you in Parliament, I acquainted you with the arduous Situation of Public Affairs at that Time, and I represented to you the Objects which I had in View, and the Resolution with which I was determined to persevere in the Defence of My Dominions against the combined Power of My Enemies, until such a Pacification could be made as might consist with the Honor of my Crown, and the permanent Interest and Security of My People. The War is still unhappily prolonged by that restless Ambition which first excited Our Enemies to commence it, and which still continues to disappoint My earnest Desire and diligent Exertion to restore the Public Tranquillity: But I should not answer the Trust committed to the Sovereign of a Free People, nor make a suitable Return to My Subjects for their constant, zealous and affectionate Attachment to My Person, Family, and Government, if I consented to sacrifice, either to My own Desire of Peace, or to their temporary Ease and Relief, those essential Rights and permanent Interests, upon the Maintenance and Preservation of which the future Strength and Security of this Country must ever principally depend.

The favorable Appearance of Our Affairs in the East Indies, and the safe and prosperous Arrival of the numerous Commercial Fleets of My Kingdoms, must have given you Satisfaction: But, in the Course of this Year, My assiduous Endeavours to guard the extensive Dominions of My Crown, have not been attended with Success equal to the Justice and Uprightness of My Views; and it is with great Concern that I inform you, that the Events of War have been very unfortunate to My Arms in Virginia, having ended in the Loss of My Forces in that Province.

No Endeavours have been wanting on My Part to extinguish that Spirit of Rebellion, which Our Enemies have found Means to soment and maintain in the Colonies; and to restore to My deluded Subjects in America that happy and prosperous Condition which they formerly derived from a due Obedience to the Laws; but the late Misfortune in that Quarter calls loudly for your firm Concurrence and Assistance to frustrate the Designs of Our Enemies, equally prejudicial to the real Interests of America, and to those of Great Britain.

In the last Session you made a considerable Progress in your Enquiries into the State and Condition of Our Dominions and Revenues in the East Indies. You will, I am persuaded, resume the Prosecution of that important Deliberation, with the same Spirit and Temper in which it was begun, and proceed with the same Attention and Anxiety to consider how those remote Provinces may be held, and governed with the greatest Security and Advantage to this Country, and by what Means the Happiness of the native Inhabitants may be best promoted.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I will order the Estimates for the ensuing Year to be laid before you. I rely on your Wisdom and Public Spirit for such Supplies as the Circumstances

of Our Affairs shall be found to require. Among the many ill-Consequences which attend the Continuation of the present War, I most sincerely regret the Additional Burthens which it must unavoidably bring upon My faithful Subjects.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

In the Prosecution of this great and important Contest in which we are engaged, I retain a firm Confidence in the Protection of Divine Providence, and a perfect Conviction of the Justice of My Cause; and I have no Doubt but that by the Concurrence and Support of My Parliament, by the Valour of My Fleets and Armies, and by a vigorous, animated, and united Exertion of the Faculties and Resources of My People, I shall be enabled to restore the Blessing of a safe and honourable Peace to all My Dominions:

*St. James's, November 26, 1781.*

**T**HIS Day Their Majesties came from Windsor to the Queen's Palace, to reside during the Winter.

The same Day his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and their Royal Highnesses the Princes and Princesses, removed from Windsor and Kew for the Winter Season.

*Whitehall, November 27, 1781.*

*Extract of a Letter from Sir Henry Clinton to the Right Honourable Lord George Germain, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated on Board the London, off Chesapeake, the 29th of October, 1781; brought by Captain Melcombe, of His Majesty's Sloop the Rattlehead, who arrived in Town late on Sunday Night last.*

**A**GREEABLE to the Information which I had the Honor to give your Lordship in my last Dispatch, the Fleet, under the Command of Rear-Admiral Graves, sailed from Sandy Hook on the 19th Instant, and arrived off Cape Charles on the 24th, when we had the Mortification to hear that Lord Cornwallis had proposed Terms of Capitulation to the Enemy on the 17th. This Intelligence was brought us by the Pilot of the Charon, and some other Persons who came off from the Shore, and said they had made their Escape from York on the 18th, and had not heard any Firing there since the Day before. The Nymph Frigate also arriving the next Day from New York, brought me a Letter from his Lordship, dated the 15th, the desponding Tenor of which gives me the most alarming Apprehensions of its Truth. Since then we have been plying off the Capes, with variable and hard Gales of Wind, to the present Hour, without being able to procure any further Information, except from Two Men taken in a Canoe, whose Report exactly corresponds with the former.

Comparing, therefore, the Intelligence given by those People, and several others since come in, with the Purport of Lord Cornwallis's Letter, Copy of which I have the Honor to inclose for your Lordship's Information, we cannot entertain the least Doubt of his Lordship's having capitulated, and that we are unfortunately too late to relieve him; which being the only Object of the Expedition, the Admiral has determined upon returning with his Fleet to Sandy Hook.

I beg Leave to mention to your Lordship, that the Army is under the greatest Obligations to the Admirals, the Captains, and the Officers of the King's Ships, for the Cheerfulness with which they submitted to many and great Inconveniencies for our Accommodation on this Service.

