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Whitehall, Jan. 28.

THIS day the Two Houses of Parliament, pursuant to their last Adjournment, met at Westminster; And His Majesty being come into the House of Lords, Attired in his Royal Robes, and with the usual Solemnity seated in His Throne, was pleased to Send for the House of Commons up, who accordingly attending His Majesty at the Bar of the Lords House His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to the Two Houses, on the occasion of their Meeting; after which, the Commons returned to their own House.

His Majesties Gracious Speech to Both Houses of Parliament, on Monday the 28th of January, 1677.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

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WHEN We parted last, I told you, That before We met again, I would do that which should be to your Satisfaction; I have accordingly made such Alliances with Holland, as are for the Preservation of Flanders, and which cannot fail of that End, unless prevented either by the want of due Assurances to suppose those Alliances, or by the small regard the Spaniards themselves must have to their own Preservation.

The rest of these I cannot suspect, by reason of your repeated Engagements to maintain them, and I know you are so wise as to consider, that a War, which must be the necessary Consequence of them, ought neither to be prosecuted by Halcyon, nor to want such Assurances of Persistence as may give Me encouragement to pursue it; besides, it will soon be less necessary, as let Our Enemies have such a Prospect of our Resolutions, as may let them see certainly, that We shall not be weary of Our Arms, till Christendom be restored to such a Peace, as shall not be in the Power of any Prince alone to Disturb.

I do acknowledge to you, that I have used all the Means possible, by a Mediation, to have procured an honourable and safe Peace for Christendom, knowing how preferable such a Peace would have been, to any War, and especially to this Kingdom, which must necessarily own the vast Benefits it has received by Peace, whilst its Neighbours only have, yet incurred by War. But finding it no longer to be hoped, for by fair means, it shall not be My Fault, if that be not obtained by Force, which cannot be had otherwise.

For this Reason I have recalled My Troops from France, and done considerable That although the Duke shall do their parts, we can have no less on Ours, than Ninety Sail of Capital Ships constantly maintained; nor less than Thirty of forty thousand Ironmen, (with their Dependencies) to be employed upon Our Fleets, and elsewhere. And because there shall be no want of Men employing what you shall give to these Fleets, I am contented that such Money be appropriated to those.

So far as you can desire, I have given Testimony enough of my Care in that kind, by the Progress I have made in Building the New Ships, wherein, for the making them more useful, I have Directed such larger Dimensions, as will cost Me above One hundred thousand Pounds more than the A& allows. I have gone as far as I could in Repairing the Old Fleet, and in Buying of Necessary Stores for the Navy, and Ordnance; And in this and other Provisions, for better securing both my Foreign Plantations, and the Islands nearer Home, I have Expended a great deal more than the Two hundred thousand Pounds you enabled Me to Borrow upon the Excise, although I have not found such a Credit as I expected upon that Security. I have born the Charge both of a Rebellion in Virginia, and a new War with Algiers; I stand engaged to the Prince of Orange for, My Nieces Portion; and I shall not be able to Maintain My constant necessary Establishments, unless the New Impost upon Wines, &c. be continued

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to Me, which would otherwise turn only to their Profit whom We least intend it.

I hope these things will need little Recommendation to you, when you consider your Promises in some, and the Necessity of the rest; and to let you see, that I have not only employed My Time and Treasure for your Safety, but done all I could to remove all sorts of Jealousies, I have Married My Niece to the Prince of Orange, by which Those Phive given full Assurances that I shall never suffer his Interest to be ruined, as also can be Assisted, as I ought to be, to preserve them.

Having done all this, I expect from you a plentiful Supply, suitable to such great Occasions, whereon depends not only the Honour, but (for ought I know) the Being of an English Nation, which will not be saved by holding out afterwards, but may be prevented by avoiding the chief Faults of doing weakly and by halves, what can only be hoped from a vigorous and thorough prosecution of what we undertake.

These Considerations are of the greatest Importance that ever concerned this Kingdom; and therefore I would have you enter immediately upon them, without suspending any other Resolutions.

Naples, Jan. 4. Since the News we had of the ta, King of the Cattie of Mola by the Duke of Bourgogne, we have not any account from Sicily, which we attribute to the bad weather, no Vessels having for several days been able to pass. In the mean time, we go on with our new Levies in this Kingdom with all the diligence possible; and we are with some impatience expecting the return of a Courier from Spain, which was sent to give the Count an account of the present condition of affairs in Sicily.

Genova, Jan. 20. The 1st instant arrived here the Society, John Willyshire Master from Marcellis; and the 18th, the Richard and William, David Lamberts Masters, yesterday arrived the Leopard, Sir William Poole Commander, and the Queen's Flag, which latter hath had an Engagement with an Algerine ship, though of double the force, was obliged to quit the Fight, leaving some of his men on board the Gherpheus in company of these Frigates sum the St. George from Cadiz.

Vienna, Jan. 24. The late Governor of Ephyrae is carried to Turkey, and kept close prisoner there, till his Process be framed. We are making Levies in these Parts with all the diligence we can, and Officers come daily from the Army for that purpose. From the 10th in Upper Hungary they write that the 10th of this Month the Rebels had with 1400 men formed a design to surprize Arba, a Castle near Tercs, belonging to the Prince Regent; but was repulsed with the loss of 100 men.

From Czickow we hear, That the Rebels go out in great Parties; they give out that 30000 Persons are coming to their assistance, which we cannot give any credit to.

Dulich, Jan. 23. The 21st instant the Emperor, Emperors and the whole Court, went hence to Newfystle, where the Duke of Lorraine is expected either this evening or tomorrow, in order to the celebrating his Marriage with the Queen Dowager of Poland. This Court is very much alarmed at the Advices come from Bavaria, as that Elector Metel going to declare for France; certain it is, that the Cardinal d'Estrées

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