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Westminster, December 13.

THIS Da, 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,

HAVING judged it necessary to embody a Part of the Militia of this Kingdom; I have, in pursuance of the Provisions of the Law, called you together within the Time limited for that Purpose; and it is, on every Account, a great Satisfaction to Me to meet you in Parliament at this Conjunction.

I should have been happy if I could have announced to you the secure and undisturbed Continuance of all the Blessings which My Subjects have derived from a State of Tranquillity; but Events have recently occurred which require Our united Vigilance and Exertion in order to preserve the Advantages which We have hitherto enjoyed.

The seditious Practices, which had been in a great Measure checked by your firm and explicit Declaration in the last Session, and by the general Concurrence of My People in the same Sentiments; have of late been more openly renewed, and with increased Activity. A Spirit of Tumult and Disorder (the natural Consequence of such Practices) has shewn itself in Acts of Riot and Insurrection, which required the Interposition of a Military-Force in Sup-

port of the Civil Magistrate.—The Industry employed to excite Discontent, on various Pretexes and in different Parts of the Kingdom, has appeared to proceed from a Design to attempt the Destruction of Our happy Constitution, and the Subversion of all Order and Government; and this Design has evidently been pursued in Connection and Concert with Persons in Foreign Countries.

I have carefully observed a strict Neutrality in the present War on the Continent, and have uniformly abstained from any Interference with respect to the internal Affairs of France; but it is impossible for Me to see, without the most serious Uneasiness, the strong and increasing Indications which have appeared there of an Intention to excite Disturbances in other Countries, to disregard the Rights of Neutral Nations, and to pursue Views of Conquest and Aggrandizement, as well as to adopt towards My Allies the States General (who have observed the same Neutrality with Myself) Measures which are neither conformable to the Law of Nations, nor to the positive Stipulations of existing Treaties. Under all these Circumstances, I have felt it my indispensable Duty to have Recourse to those Means of Prevention and internal Defence with which I am entrusted by Law; and I have also thought it right to take Steps for making some Augmentation of My Naval and Military Force, being persuaded that these Exertions are necessary in the present State of Affairs, and are best calculated both to maintain internal Tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate Conduct effectual for preserving the Blessings of Peace.

Nothing will be neglected on My Part that can contribute to that important Object, consistently with

[Price One Shilling.]

