

and the general Security of Europe, whilst your Majesty's Enemies have advanced Pretensions, at once inconsistent with those Objects, unsupported even on the Grounds on which they were professed to rest, and repugnant both to the System established by repeated Treaties, and to the Principles and Practice which have hitherto regulated the Intercourse of independent Nations.

It must be Matter of true Consolation to your Majesty's Mind, as well as of just Satisfaction to our Feelings, that, under these Circumstances, the Continuance of the Calamities of War can be imputed only to the unjust and exorbitant Views of your Majesty's Enemies. Your Majesty will however, we are assured, still look forward with Anxiety to the Moment when they may be disposed to act on different Principles, and in the mean Time your Majesty may securely place the fullest Reliance on our firm Support; and we trust that, under the Protection of Providence, the tried Valour of your Forces by Sea and Land, and the Zeal, the Public Spirit, and the Resources of your Majesty's Kingdoms, will afford the most vigorous and effectual Support in the Prosecution of a Contest which it does not depend on your Majesty to terminate, and which involves in it the Security and permanent Interests of this Country and of Europe.

We humbly beg Leave to offer our Congratulations to your Majesty upon the Failure of the recent formidable Attempt of the French to invade this Kingdom. When we reflect on the providential Dispersion of their Squadrons until your Majesty's Fleets were enabled to appear upon our Coasts, our Minds are overpowered with Sensations of awful and serious Gratitude for so signal an Instance of Divine Interposition. At the same Time we reflect with Satisfaction, that the Hopes of creating Division and Insurrection, by which our Enemies seem to have been inspired, have ended in total Disappointment; and that the late Alarm has afforded an Opportunity for your Majesty's faithful Subjects to testify, at the Hazard of their Fortunes and their Lives, their invincible Attachment to your Majesty's mild Government, and to the Blessings of an happy Constitution. During the recent Period of threatened Attack, many Circumstances have afforded us Confidence and excited our Admiration. We have beheld the Regular and Militia Forces vying with each other in Alacrity and Zeal. We have experienced the decided Utility of the Yeomanry Corps in the abundant Display of their prompt and honourable Exertions. The most respectable Characters have distinguished themselves by their marked Activity in the Public Service; all Ranks and Descriptions of Persons have facilitated the March of the Army by their benevolent Attention; whilst the most spirited Measures have been taken for the Support of Public Credit. We feel assured that your Majesty will derive a true Gratification from the Knowledge of these Circumstances. They have made the deepest Impression on our Minds, while they inspired a just Hope, that if the Enemy had been enabled to land, this general Spirit of animated and gallant Loyalty would have quickly terminated their Career in total Defeat.

We are deeply penetrated by the Communication of Acknowledgments and Thanks which your Majesty has ordered to be conveyed to you, faithful People. They know not a superior Duty than mani-

festing their Loyalty to the best of Sovereigns, nor can feel a higher Gratification than in the receiving the Approbation of their humble Services. We are truly sensible that your Majesty's Concern for the Safety and Happiness of his People of Ireland has been anxious and unceasing. We feel assured that your Majesty was prepared to send every Military Assistance from Great Britain, and that the Arrival of your Fleets on our Coasts was only retarded by those adverse Storms, which have proved so destructive to the present Expedition of the Enemy. We at the same Time unite our Hopes to those of your Majesty, that the formidable Armament assembled for the Protection of this Kingdom, under the Command of Lord Bridport, may overtake the hostile Squadron, and accomplish it's Defeat.

Amidst these Considerations we beg Leave to assure your Majesty, that we shall advert, without Delay, to the Situation and Resources of the Kingdom, and keep the Measures of Defence proportionate to the daring Efforts of our desperate Enemies. We trust that they will be soon taught to repent of their haughty Rejection of all reasonable Proposals for the Restoration of Peace. That their Projects of exciting Disaffection among His Majesty's Subjects, will only tend to cement and increase their Loyalty; and that their wicked Endeavour to propagate the Principles of Anarchy, by exciting the Spirit of Plunder, will unite the whole Force of your Majesty's Kingdoms in resisting their insidious Overtures, and repressing their Powers.

We beg Leave to express our entire Satisfaction in the Administration of the Earl Camden; the Vigour, Activity and Efficacy of his Exertions to preserve us from the Ravages of a Foreign Enemy, and the Mischiefs of Domestic Disturbance, call for our warmest Acknowledgments; and we trust, that from your Majesty's paternal Attention to the Happiness of your People, your Majesty will long continue him in the Government of this Kingdom.

Rob. Thoroton, Cler. Dom. Com.

His Majesty's most Gracious Answer,

GEORGE R.

HIS Majesty returns his Thanks to his faithful Commons of Ireland, for their affectionate and loyal Address.

His Majesty is highly gratified by the Sentiments expressed by his faithful Commons, on the unprovoked Aggression of the Court of Spain, and on the abrupt and unprecedented Manner in which the Negotiation for Peace was terminated by the French Government. His Majesty feels the utmost Confidence that the Justice of his Cause, aided by the Spirit and Exertions of his People, will enable him successfully to resist the unreasonable Pretensions of his Enemies, and to end the just and necessary Contest in which he is engaged by a secure and honorable Peace.

His Majesty sincerely concurs with the House of Commons in the Sentiments of Gratitude which they express, for the signal Instance of Divine Interposition in the providential Dispersion of the Enemy's Squadron which lately appeared on their Coast at the Moment when His Majesty's Fleets were prevented approaching it by the Violence of adverse Winds; and it is with the most cordial Satisfaction that His Majesty has observed the Ardor and Unanimity which have animated the Exertions of all Ranks and Descriptions of the People of Ireland on this Occasion, as well in the

M^o. 24. 15