



SUPPLEMENT
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1812.

The Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Tuesday, January 7, 1812.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE are commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to express to you the deep sorrow which he feels in announcing to you the continuance of His Majesty's lamented indisposition, and the unhappy disappointment of those hopes of His Majesty's early recovery, which had been cherished by the dutiful affection of his family, and the loyal attachment of his people.

The Prince Regent has directed copies of the last reports of Her Majesty the Queen's Council to be laid before you; and he is satisfied that you will adopt such measures as the present melancholy exigency may appear to require.

In securing a suitable and ample provision for the support of His Majesty's royal dignity, and for the attendance upon His Majesty's sacred person during his illness, the Prince Regent rests assured that you will also bear in mind the indispensable duty of continuing to preserve for His Majesty the facility of resuming the personal exercise of his royal authority, in the happy event of his recovery, so earnestly desired by the wishes and the prayers of his family and his subjects.

The Prince Regent directs us to signify to you the satisfaction with which His Royal Highness has observed that the measures which have been pursued for the defence and security of the kingdom of Portugal have proved completely effectual, and that on the several occasions in which the British or Portuguese troops have been engaged with the enemy, the reputation already acquired by them has been fully maintained.

The successful and brilliant enterprize which terminated in the surprize, in Spanish Estremadura, of a French corps, by a detachment of the allied army under Lieutenant-General Hill, is highly creditable to that distinguished officer and to the troops under his command, and has contributed materially to obstruct the designs of the enemy in that part of the Peninsula.

The Prince Regent is assured, that while you reflect with pride and satisfaction on the conduct of His Majesty's troops and of the allies, in these various and important services, you will render justice to the consummate judgement and skill displayed by General Lord Viscount Wellington in the direction of the campaign.

In Spain the spirit of the people remains unsubdued, and the system of warfare so peculiarly adapted to the actual condition of the Spanish nation,



has been recently extended and improved under the advantages which result from the operations of the allied armies on the frontier, and from the countenance and assistance of His Majesty's navy on the coast.

Although the great exertions of the enemy have in some quarters been attended with success, His Royal Highness is persuaded you will admire the perseverance and gallantry manifested by the Spanish armies. Even in those provinces principally occupied by the French forces, new energy has arisen among the people, and the increase of difficulty and danger has produced more connected efforts of general resistance.

The Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, commands us to express his confident hope that you will enable him to continue to afford the most effectual aid and assistance in support of the contest which the brave nations of the Peninsula still maintain with such unabated zeal and resolution.

His Royal Highness commands us to express his congratulations on the success of the British arms in the island of Java.

The Prince Regent trusts that you will concur with His Royal Highness in approving the wisdom and ability with which this enterprise, as well as the capture of the islands of Bourbon and the Mauritius, has been conducted under the immediate direction of the Governor-General of India; and that you will applaud the decision, gallantry, and spirit conspicuously displayed in the late operations of the brave army under the command of that distinguished officer Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, so powerfully and ably supported by His Majesty's naval forces.

By the completion of this system of operations, great additional security will have been given to the British commerce and possessions in the East Indies, and the colonial power of France will have been entirely extinguished.

His Royal Highness thinks it expedient to recommend to your attention the propriety of providing such measures for the future government of the British possessions in India, as shall appear from experience, and upon mature deliberation, to be calculated to secure their internal prosperity, and to derive from those flourishing dominions the utmost degree of advantage to the commerce and revenue of the United Kingdom.

We are commanded by the Prince Regent to acquaint you, that, while His Royal Highness regrets that various important subjects of difference with the Government of the United States of America still remain unadjusted, the difficulties which the affair of the Chesapeake frigate occasioned have been finally removed; and we are directed to assure you, that in the further progress of the discussion with the United States, the Prince Regent will continue to employ such means of conciliation as may be consistent with the honour and dignity of His Majesty's crown, and with the due maintenance of the maritime and commercial rights and interests of the British empire.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

His Royal Highness has directed the estimates for the service of the current year to be laid before you. He trusts that you will furnish him with such supplies as may be necessary to enable him to continue the contest in which His Majesty is engaged, with that spirit and exertion, which will afford the best prospect of its successful termination. His Royal Highness commands us to recommend that you should resume the consideration of the state of the finances of Ireland, which you had commenced in the last session of Parliament. He has the satisfaction to inform you, that the improved receipt of the revenue of Ireland, in the last, as compared with the preceding year, confirms the belief, that the depression which that revenue had experienced, is to be attributed to accidental and temporary causes.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Prince Regent is satisfied that you entertain a just sense of the arduous duties which His Royal Highness has been called upon to fulfil, in consequence of His Majesty's continued indisposition.

Under this severe calamity, His Royal Highness derives the greatest consolation from his reliance on your experienced wisdom, loyalty, and public spirit, to which in every difficulty he will resort with a firm confidence, that through your assistance and support he shall be enabled, under the blessings of Divine Providence, successfully to discharge the important functions of the high trust reposed in him; and in the name and on the behalf of his beloved Father and revered Sovereign, to maintain unimpaired the prosperity and honour of the nation.

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