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Whitehall, March 21.

Yesterday the Parliament met at Westminster, pursuant to Their Majesties Writs of Summons. And His Majesty being, in his Royal Robes, seated on the Throne in the House of Peers, attended with the usual Solemnity, the Commons were sent for up by the Black Rod, who accordingly attending, Sir Robert Atkins Knight of the Bath, Lord Chief Baron, and Speaker of the House of Peers, by His Majesties Command, signified to them His Majesties Pleasure, That they should forthwith proceed to the Choice of a Speaker, and present him to His Majesty the next morning. After which the Commons returned to their House, and made Choice of Sir John Trevor Kt. to be their Speaker; who being this morning presented to His Majesty seated on the Throne in the House of Peers, His Majesty did graciously approve of him. And then His Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to Both Houses; Which follows.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am Resolved to leave nothing unattempted on My Part, which may contribute to the Peace and Prosperity of this Nation; And finding My Presence in Ireland will be absolutely necessary for the more speedy Reducing of that Kingdom, I continue My Resolution of going thither as soon as may be; And I have now Called you together for your Assistance, to Enable Me to Prosecute the War with Speed and Vigour: In which I Assure My Self of your Cheerful Concomerance, being a Work so necessary for your own Safeties.

In Order to this, I desire you will forthwith make a Settlement of the Revenue; and I cannot doubt, but you will therein have as much Regard for the Honour and Dignity of the Monarchy in My Hands, as has been lately shewed to others: And I have so great a Confidence in you, That if no Quicker or more Convenient way can be found for the Raising of Ready Money (without which the Service cannot be performed) I shall be very well Content, for the present, to have it made such a Fond of Credit as may be Useful to your selves as well as Me, in this Conjunction, not having the least Apprehensions, but that you will provide for the taking off all such Anticipations as it shall happen to fall under.

It is sufficiently known how earnestly I have Endeavoured to Extinguish (or at least Compose) all Differences amongst my Subjects, and to that End, how often I have Recommended an Act of Indemnity to the last Parliament; But since that Part of it which related to the Preventing of Private Suits is already Enacted, and because Debates of that Nature, must take up more of your Time than can now be spared from the Dispatch of those other Things, which are absolutely necessary for Our Common Safety, I intend to send you an Act of Grace, with Exceptions of some few Persons only, but such as may be sufficient to shew My great Dislike of their Crimes, and at the same time My Readiness to extend Protection to all My other Subjects, who will thereby see, that they can Recommend themselves to Me by no other Methods than what the Laws Prescribe, which shall always be the only Rules of My Government.

A further Reason which induceth Me to send you this Act at this time, is, Because I am desirous to leave no Colour of Excuse to any of My Subjects for the Raising of Disturbances in the Government, and especially in the time of My Absence: And I say this, both to Inform you, and to let some ill Affected Men see, That I am not unacquainted how busie they are in their present Endeavours to stir it.

Amongst other Encouragements which I find they give themselves, one of the Ways by which they hope to Compress their Design, is, By creating Differences and Disgraces

in your Counsels, which I hope you will be very Careful to prevent; For be assured, That Our greatest Enemies can have no better Instruments for their Purposes, than those who shall any way endeavour to Disturb or Delay your Speedy and Unanimous Proceeding upon these necessary Matters.

I must Recommend also to your Consideration an Union with Scotland; I do not mean it should now be entered upon, but they having Proposed this to Me some time since, and the Parliament there having Nominated Commissioners for that purpose, I should be glad that Commissioners might also be Nominated here to Treat with them, and to see if such Terms could be Agreed on, as might be for the Benefit of Both Nations, so as to be ready to be Presented to you in some future Session.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have thought it most convenient to leave the Administration of the Government in the Hands of the QUEEN during My Absence; And if it shall be judg'd necessary to have an Act of Parliament for the better Confirmation of it to Her, I Desire you will let such an one be prepared to be Presented to Me.

I have this only to add, That the Season of the Year, and my Journey into Ireland, will admit but of a very short Session; so that I must Recommend to you the making such Dispatch, that We may not be Engaged in Debates when Our Enemies shall be in the Field: for the Success of the War, and the more Thrifty Management of it, will both principally depend upon your speedy Resolutions. And I hope it will not be long before We shall Meet again, to perfect what the Time will not now allow to be done.

Leghorne, March 2. The Great Duke came hither on the 20th Instant with the whole Court from Florence. The next day Lambert Blackwell Esq; his Majesty of Great Britain's Consul, being accompanied by the English Merchants of this Factory, had a publick Audience of his Highness, by whom he was very well received.

Vienna, March 16. The Letters from Nissa of the 27th past inform us, That the Soldiers who were scattered at the Rout near Kazanecke, were most of them returned; and that the broken Regiments began to be recruited. That some of the Coruzza, who fled from Teckelej, reported, that he was encamped with 5 or 600 Men near Orsova on the Banks of the Danube. And that some Christian Slaves who had escaped from Sophia, gave an account, that upon the departure of the Tartars all the Inhabitants had deserted that Place, except a few Soldiers, and such as Live by the Port, who did not in all exceed 5000; These confirm also, that Prince Charles of Hanover was killed in the Fight of Kazanecke, and that the Baron Straffer, who was taken Prisoner, died afterwards of his Wounds and ill usage. They write from Transilvania, that the Prince of Moldavia had sent two of his Chief Officers to General Heuster, (who Commands the Imperial Forces on that side) to demand the Emperors Protection, offering in case the same was granted, to furnish a certain number of Horses for remounting the Imperial Cavalry, with 500 Oxen, and 50 Purges each containing 500 Dollars, and that they would remain Hostages for the performance thereof. The Turkish Envoys are still stop'd at Comorra; And we now expect every day that Camissa will fall into our hands. There are this day advices come in, which say, that General Peterani, who Commands in Bulgaria, has in some late Action had a considerable Advantage over the Turks. And that there is an other Tumult or Insurrection begun at Constantinople.

Francfort, March 22. Great preparations are making in all these parts for the next Campaign; and we are assured, that the Imperial Army will consist this Summer of near 50000 Men; without reckoning the Troops of several of the Princes and Circles of the Empire, which will act in separate Bodies. We have an account from the Palatinate,