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Westminster, January 17.

HIS Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir Charles Dalton, 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,

THE War, which is now begun, and carried on against the Emperor, with so much Vigour, by the united Powers of France, Spain, and Sardinia, is become the Object of the Care and Attention of all Europe; and though I am no ways engaged in it, and have had no Part, except by My good Offices, in those Transactions, which have been declared to be the principal Causes and Motives of it, I cannot sit regardless of the present Events, or be unconcerned for the future Consequences of a War, undertaken and supported by so powerful an Alliance.

If ever any Occasion required more than ordinary Prudence and Circumspection, the present calls upon Us to use Our utmost Precaution, not to determine too hastily upon so critical and important a Conjunction, but to consider thoroughly what the Honour and Dignity of My Crown and Kingdoms, the true Interest of My People, and the Engagements We are under to the several Powers We are in Alliance with, may in Justice and Prudence require of Us.

I have therefore thought it proper to take Time to examine the Facts alledged on both Sides, and to wait the Result of the Councils of those Powers, that are more nearly and immediately interested in the Consequences of the War, and to concert with those Allies, who are under the same Engagements with Me, and have not taken Part in the War (more particularly the States General of the United Provinces) such Measures as shall be thought most adviseable for Our

common Safety, and for restoring the Peace of Europe.

The Resolutions of the British Parliament, in so nice a Juncture, are of too great Moment not to be carefully attended to, and impatiently expected, by all, and not least by those, who will hope to take Advantage from your Determinations, whatever they shall be, and to turn them to the Prejudice of this Kingdom. It must therefore be thought most safe and prudent, thoroughly to weigh and consider all Circumstances, before we come to a final Determination.

As I shall have, in all My Considerations upon this great and important Affair, the strictest Regard to the Honour of My Crown, and the Good of My People, and be governed by no other Views, I can make no doubt; but that I may entirely depend on the Support and Assistance of my Parliament, without exposing Myself, by any precipitate Declarations, to such Inconveniences, as ought, as far as possible, to be avoided.

In the mean time, I am persuaded, you will make such Provisions, as shall secure My Kingdoms, Rights, and Possessions, from all Dangers and Insults, and maintain the Respect due to the British Nation: Whatever Part it may, in the End, be most reasonable for Us to act, it will, in all Views, be necessary, when all Europe is preparing for Arms, to put Ourselves in a proper Posture of Defence. As this will best preserve the Peace of the Kingdom, so it will give Us a due Weight and Influence in whatever Measures We shall take in Conjunction with Our Allies: But should the Defence of the Nation not be sufficiently provided for, it will make Us disregarded Abroad, and may prove a Temptation and Encouragement to the desperate Views of those, who never fail to flatter themselves with the Hopes of great Advantages from publick Troubles and Disorders.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I shall order the Estimates to be laid before you of such Services, as require your present and immediate Care. The Augmentation, which will be proposed for the Sea Service,

will

[Price Two Pence.]