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Westminster, November 18.

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,

I Acquainted you, at the Close of the last Session of Parliament, that I was making Preparations for carrying on the just and necessary War in which I am engaged, in the most proper Places, and in the most vigorous and effectual Manner. For this Purpose, strong Squadrons were got ready, and ordered to sail upon important Services, both in the West Indies and Europe, with as much Expedition as the Nature of those Services, and the manning of the Ships, would admit: A very considerable Body of Land Forces was embarked, which is to be joined by a great Number of my Subjects raised in America; and all Things necessary for transporting the Troops from hence, and carrying on the designed Expedition, were a long Time in Readiness, and waited only for an Opportunity to pursue the intended Voyage.

The several Incidents which have happened in the mean time, have had no Effect upon me, but to confirm me in my Resolutions, and to determine me to add Strength to my Armaments, rather than to divert or deter me from those just and vigorous Measures which I am pursuing, for maintaining the Honour of my Crown, and the undoubted Rights of my People.

The Court of Spain having already felt some Effects of our Resentment, began to be sensible, that they should be no longer able, alone, to defend themselves against the Efforts

of the British Nation; and if any other Power, agreeably to some late extraordinary Proceedings, should interpose, and attempt to prescribe or limit the Operations of the War against my declared Enemies, the Honour and Interest of my Crown and Kingdoms must call upon us to lose no Time in putting ourselves into such a Condition, as may enable us to repel any Insults, and to frustrate any Designs formed against us, in Violation of the Faith of Treaties; and I hope any such unprecedented Steps, under what Colour or Pretence soever they may be taken, will inspire my Allies with a true Sense of the common Danger, and will unite us in the Support and Defence of the common Cause.

The great and unhappy Event of the Death of the late Emperor, opens a new Scene in the Affairs of Europe, in which all the principal Powers may be immediately or consequentially concerned. It is impossible to determine what Turn the Policy, Interest, or Ambition of the several Courts may lead them to take in this critical Conjuncture. It shall be my Care strictly to observe and attend to their Motions, and to adhere to the Engagements I am under, in order to the maintaining of the Balance of Power, and the Liberties of Europe; and in Concert with such Powers as are under the same Obligations, or equally concerned to preserve the publick Safety and Tranquillity, to act such a Part as may best contribute to avert the imminent Dangers that may threaten them.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered Estimates to be prepared, and laid before you, for the Service of the ensuing Year. It is always with Regret that I ask any extraordinary Aids of my People: But what I have already mentioned must be sufficient to satisfy you, that some Augmentations will be necessary, not only for carrying on the present War with Vigour, but also to put ourselves in a Condition of being prepared for such Events as may arise in this new and uncertain State of Europe. I therefore