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Westminster, December 4.

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,

It is always a great Satisfaction to me to meet you assembled in Parliament; and especially at this Time, when the Posture of Affairs makes your Counsel and Assistance so necessary; and when, by Means of the new Elections, I may have an Opportunity of knowing the more immediate Sense and Disposition of my People in general, from their Representatives, chosen during a Season, which has been attended with great Variety of Incidents of the highest Consequence and Expectation; and during the Course of the War, in which we are engaged against the Crown of Spain; A War, in itself just and necessary, entered into by the repeated Advice of both Houses of Parliament; and particularly recommended to me to be carried on in America, which has been my principal Care. I can therefore make no Doubt, but that you are met together fully sensible of our present Situation, and prepared to give me such Advice, as shall be most conducive to the Honour, and true Interest of my Crown and Kingdoms.

You cannot but have observed, with an Attention suitable to the Occasion, the impending Dangers that threaten Europe, and more immediately such Parts of the Continent, as shall withstand or resist the formidable Powers, which are confederated for the Subversion, or Reduction of the House of Austria. The Apprehension of these Things was communicated to the last Parliament, when both Houses expressed their great Concern for the Troubles which were then broke out in the Austrian Dominions, and came to the strongest Resolutions in Favour of the Queen of Hungary, for the Maintenance of the Pragmatic Sanction, and for the Preservation of the Balance of Power, and the Peace and Liberties of Europe. And had other Powers, that were under the same Engagements with me, answered the just Expectations they had so solemnly given, the

Support of the Common Cause had been attended with less Difficulty.

I have, pursuant to the Advice of my Parliament, ever since the Death of the late Emperor, exerted myself in the Support of the House of Austria. I have endeavoured, by the most proper and early Applications, to induce other Powers, that were equally engaged with me, and united by Common Interest, to concert such Measures as so important and critical a Conjunction required; and where an Accommodation seemed to me to be necessary, I laboured to reconcile those Princes, whose Union would have been the most effectual Means to prevent the Mischiefs that have happened; and the best Security for the Interest and Safety of the Whole.

Although my Endeavours have not hitherto had the desired Effects; I cannot but still hope, that a just Sense of the common, and approaching Danger, will produce a more favourable Turn in the Councils of other Nations. In this Situation, it is incumbent upon Us to put ourselves in a Condition to improve all Opportunities that shall offer for maintaining the Liberties of Europe; and to assist and support our Friends and Allies, at such Times, and in such Manner, as the Exigency and Circumstances of Affairs shall require, and to defeat any Attempts that shall be made against me, and my Dominions, or against those whom we are most nearly concerned for, and in Honour and Interest, engaged to support and defend.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered Estimates to be laid before you for the Service of the ensuing Year; and I must desire you to grant me such Supplies as the Circumstances of Affairs require; which, you may depend upon, shall be duly applied to the Purposes for which they shall be given.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have, during the Course of my Reign, had so much Experience of the Duty and Affection of my Parliaments to my Person and Government; and of their Zeal for the Good of their Country and the Support of the Common Cause, that I do, with the greatest Reason, rely upon the Conjunction of them in the present Conjunction. There never was a Time in which your Humanity, Vigour, and Dispatch, were necessary to so many great Ends, as those which are now before you: I will so my Parliaments appear in your Proceedings, and Resolutions, that you have that just and hearty Concern for them, which their Importance requires.