

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday November 10, to Saturday November 14, 1747.

Westminster, November 12.

HIS Majesty came this Day, to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, the Honourable Mr. Bellenden, 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,

AS one of my principal Views, in calling this Parliament, was, that I might receive the most clear and certain Information of the Sense of my People, on the present Posture of Affairs; I was desirous to meet you as early as your own Convenience, as well as that of the Publick, would admit.

By the Advice of my Parliament, I entered into the War against Spain, in order to vindicate and secure the Trade and Commerce of my Subjects. By their Advice also, and in Conformity to my Engagements, I undertook the Support of the Empress Queen of Hungary, and of the just Rights of the House of Austria. In Resentment for this Conduct, so necessary for the Interests of my own Kingdoms, and of the ancient Allies of my Crown, France not only declared War against me, but fomented and supported an unnatural Rebellion within this Kingdom. In carrying on this just and necessary War, I have found the most chearful and vigorous Support from my Parliament: And though the Success has not been answerable to our Wishes, and just Expectations, in the Low-Countries; yet it must be allowed, to the Honour of this Nation, that no Part of the Misfortunes can be imputed to us.

The signal Successes, which it has pleased God to grant us at Sea, have made the Enemy feel the Weight of our Naval Strength, to their great Loss, and the real and solid Advantage of this Nation. This has appeared most remarkably in the Operations of my Fleet, this last Year; which have tended no less to the Honour of the British Flag, than to the Reduction of the Maritime Force and Commerce of France. The Government of the United Provinces has, once more, resumed that Consistency, which

will give great Strength to the Common Cause; cement more firmly the Friendship between this Kingdom and that Republick; and be a lasting Security to our inseparable Interests. One great Effect of this happy Alteration in Holland has already appeared, in the vigorous Declaration lately made by the States General to the Court of France; and the Orders given by them, for committing Hostilities every where against the French King and his Subjects.

Some Overtures for a general Pacification have lately been made to me, on the Part of France; and though some of the Terms proposed were such as could not be approved, yet as I have had no other Aim, but to bring about a safe and honourable Peace, I have shewn the utmost Inclination to facilitate it, in Conjunction with my Allies; and a Congress is actually agreed to be held at Aix la Chapelle, whither the several Ministers will soon repair. I hope all the Powers concerned will bring with them the same Dispositions to effectuate this great Work, on just and reasonable Conditions, which I sincerely have.

In this Situation, I am confident you will agree in Opinion with me, that it is necessary to be vigilant and attentive to every Event; and that there can be no Reason to expect a good Peace, but by being timely prepared to carry on a vigorous and effectual War. I therefore rely on your hearty and powerful Support, to enable me to prosecute the War, in case the Obstinacy of our Enemies, in not agreeing to just and reasonable Terms of Accommodation, should render it unavoidable. For this Purpose, I am now actually concerting the necessary Measures with my Allies; whose Interests I am determined to adhere to and support. Let us be in Readiness, in case the Negotiations should fail of the desired Effect, to convince our Enemies, how much they are mistaken, if they vainly imagine that Great Britain, and her Allies, will submit to receive the Law from any Power whatsoever; and demonstrate to the World, that we will decline no Difficulty or Hazard for the Preservation of the Common Liberty, and our own Independency, and essential Interests.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The Necessity of adequate Supplies appears from what has been already mentioned. The proper Estimates for the Services of the ensuing Year