



Her MAJESTY'S

Most Gracious

SPEECH

TO BOTH

Houses of Parliament,

On Tuesday the Second Day of March 1713.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*



Have much Satisfaction in being able, at the Opening this Parliament, to tell you, That the Ratifications of the Treaties of Peace and of Commerce with *Spain* are Exchanged, by which my Subjects will have greater Opportunities than ever to Improve and Extend their Trade. Many Advantages formerly enjoyed by Connivance, and procured by such Methods as made a Distinction between one *British* Merchant and another, are now Settled by Treaty, and an Equal Rule is Established.

It has pleased God: to bless My Endeavours to Obtain an Honourable and Advantageous Peace for My own People, and for the greatest Part of my Allies. Nothing which I can do, shall be wanting to render it Universal. And I persuade My self that, with your Hearty Concurrence, My Interposition may at last prove effectual to complete the Settlement of *Europe*.

In the mean while, I Congratulate with My own Subjects, that they are Delivered from a Consuming Land-War, and Entered on a Peace; the good Effects whereof nothing but Intestine Divisions can Obstruct.

It was the Glory of the Wisest and Greatest of My Predecessors, to hold the Balance of *Europe*, and to keep it Equal by Casting in their Weight as Necessity required. By this Conduct they Enriched the Kingdom, and Rendered themselves Dreadful to their Enemies, and Useful to their Friends. I have Proceeded on the same Principle, and I doubt not but My Successors will follow these Examples.

Our Situation points out to Us Our true Interest; for this Country can Flourish only by Trade, and will be most Formidable by the right Application of Our Naval Force.

*Gentle.*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have Ordered such Accounts to be prepared and laid before you, as will shew you, at the Conclusion of the War, the true State of your Condition, whereby you will be better able to judge what Aids are Necessary; And I only ask of you Supplies for the Current Service of the Year, and for the Discharge of such Debts as you shall find, on Examination, to be Just and Reasonable.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

The Joy which has been generally Expressed on My Recovery from My late Indisposition, and on My Coming to this City, I esteem as a Return to that Tender Affection which I have always had for My People.

I wish that Effectual Care had been taken, as I have often desired, to Suppress those Seditious Papers, and Factious Rumours, by which Designing Men have been able to sink Credit, and the Innocent have suffered.

There are some who have arrived to that Height of Malice, as to Insinuate, that the Protestant Succession in the House of *Hanover* is in Danger under My Government.

Those who go about thus to Distract the Minds of Men with imaginary Dangers, can only mean to Disturb the Present Tranquillity, and to bring real Mischiefs upon Us.

After all I have done to Secure Our Religion, and your Liberties, and to Transmit Both safe to Posterity, I cannot mention these Proceedings without some Degree of Warmth: And I must hope you will all agree with Me, that Attempts to Weaken My Authority, or to render the Possession of the Crown uneasy to Me, can never be Proper Means to Strengthen the Protestant Succession.

I have done, and shall continue to do, My Best for the Good of all My Subjects. Let it be your Endeavour, as it shall be Mine, to Unite Our Differences, not by Relaxing from the strictest Adherence to Our Constitution of Church and State, but by Observing the Laws your selves, and Enforcing a due Obedience to them in others.

A long War has not only Impoverished the Publick (however some Particular Men may have been Gainers by it) but has also greatly Affected Government it self.

Let it be your Care so to Improve the present Opportunity, as to lay the Foundation of Recovering from those Disorders.

I had the Concurrence of the last Parliament in making the Peace; let it be the Honour of this, to Assist Me in Obtaining such Fruits from it, as may not only derive Blessings on the present Age, but even down to latest Posterity.

