

Adversarys Purloin of His old settled Possessions and just Rights on the Eastern Shore, and that you'l Encrease the same with Grants to Tenants by all Justifiable Means.

War or Peace seems here at a stand, Hostility with France and England goes on by Reprisals at Sea, the Equivalent thereby is greatly at present with us; here is arrived great Boast from Paris of the Toulon and Brest Squadrons, when join'd they threaten us Destruction! Brag's a good Dog, But holdfast's a better. We have of their Navy and Trading Ships in hand. The following are some operations of our Parliament Sittings for 1756 viz^t 34,000 Effective men including 3759 Invalids.—£209,854 for maintaining the Forces in the Plantations.—£15,243. and £146,721. for the Charge of the office of Ordinance and Extra Expences not provided for of that office.—50,000 men for the Sea Service at £4. p man p month including ordinance, with £219,021 for the ordinary.

After very long debates with Divisions on the Russians and Hessians Troops as Supplys to His Majesty, It passed in the Affirmative 263 against 69. viz^t

That £100,000 be granted to the Empress of Russia for 72000 Auxiliary Troops, if necessary, pursuant to Treaty.

That £54,140. 12.6 be granted to the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel for 8,000 Troops in hand and 4,000 Horse as Auxiliaries, pursuant to Treaty.

That £10,000 be granted to the Elector of Bavaria pursuant to Treaty.

Land Tax Four shillings in the pound.

On Condemnation of the French Captures, It passed in the Negative 211 against 81.

On His Majesty's Message on the deplorable Event to Portugal, £100,000 Relief to that Kingdom.

Inclosed I send you the London Gazette in which is a Letter, Lisbon the 6th of December 1755 from Abraham Castres Esq^r His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary to the King of Portugal, on the Calamities from a most tremendous Earthquake, on the first of the last month, which Reduced that City to a heap of Rubish and Ruins, followed by a Conflagration of more Mischief than the Earthquake it self.

It is Certain as M^r Hervey Observes in his Thereon and Aspasio, Speaking of Earthquake, he says; Of all Divine Visitations, this is the most terrible Vindictive, puts a Period in a few Minutes to the work of Ages, ruins all without Distinctions, and there is no Defence against its Stroke.

His Portuguese Majesty with his Family were retired to their Palace near Belem by the Sea, about three Leagues off, and ('tis said) the Eve before the inhuman Festival of the Inquisition, by Burning the unfortunate People Condemn'd by