

His majesty declares, in the most solemn manner, that his desire to preserve and to cultivate peace and friendly intercourse with the court of Spain, has been uniform and sincere; and that his conduct towards that power has been guided by no other motives or principles than those of good faith, honour and justice; and his majesty sees with the greatest surprise the pretences on which this declaration is grounded, as some of the grievances enumerated in that paper have never come to the knowledge of his majesty, either by representation on the part of the catholic king, or by intelligence from any other quarter; and in all those cases where applications have been received, the matter of complaint has been treated with the utmost attention, and put into a course of enquiry and redress.

His majesty has the firmest confidence, that his faithful commons will, with that zeal and public spirit which he has so often experienced, support his Majesty in his resolution to exert all the power, and all the resources of the nation, to resist and repel any hostile attempts of the court of Spain; and that, by the blessing of God, on the rectitude of his intentions, and the equity of his cause, his majesty will be able to withstand and defeat the unjust and dangerous enterprises of his enemies, against the honour of his crown, and the commerce, the rights, and the common interests of all his subjects.

These important papers being read, lord North moved for an humble address to his majesty, and was seconded by lord John Cavendish, assuring his majesty that his faithful commons were ready to assist him with their lives and fortunes against his enemies.

No debate ensued, and the question being put, it passed in the affirmative without a division.

Lord John Cavendish now moved the house, "That an humble address be presented to his majesty praying his majesty that the whole force of Great-Britain, both naval and military, might be immediately collected together, and directed AGAINST THE HOUSE OF BOURBON."

Mr. Jenkinson, aware of the ingenuity with which this motion was framed, instantly required of the noble lord who proposed it, that he would inform the house, whether by the words THE WHOLE FORCE OF GREAT-BRITAIN, he meant to include the naval and military force at present employed in America.

Lord John Cavendish readily admitted this to be included in the meaning of his motion, and was seconded by Mr. Thomas Townshend.

This occasioned a very warm and general debate, which continued till eleven o'clock, in the course of which the whole of the American war was travelled over afresh, and all the errors and follies of ministry brought into review, and pointed against them with the most acrimonious satire, and reproach, particularly by Mr. Fox, who was up for an hour and a half, sometimes shooting like a meteor through the regions of eloquence, dazzling the whole house, as it were, with the beauties and brilliancy of his declaration and at other times pouring down his sarcasms, and strictures, like a cataract on the minister, and his wretched dependents.

The ministry at length afraid to negative the motion, and unwilling to let it pass, Mr.

Jenkinson moved, by way of getting rid of it, that the house should adjourn, which being divided upon:

There appeared for the motion	156
Against it	80
Majority	76

The house then broke up, and the speaker is to attend his majesty at St. James's this day with the address voted yesterday.

HOUSE OF LORDS, June 18. Yesterday, as soon as the house met, lord Weymouth, one of his majesty's principal secretaries of state, laid before their lordships a message from his majesty, to the same purport as that brought to the commons, and accompanied with a translation of the manifesto delivered on Wednesday from the court of Spain, by her ambassador here. After which, the noble lord, in a short speech, moved the house for an humble address to his majesty, assuring his majesty that their lordships were willing to hazard their lives and fortunes in defence of his person and government.

Lord Abingdon, with great spirit, opposed the motion. No probability appeared, he said, of seeing our public affairs put into a better situation, or our calamities removed or alleviated, by those men who had by a series of the most gross, obstinate, and unexampled follies, plunged us into a thousand difficulties. Our present situation, his lordship farther contended, was now become so critical as to require the advice and consent of our ablest statesmen, and that it would be highly absurd indeed, to entrust the conduct of the war, when extended to the whole house of Bourbon, to those very ministers who had woefully proved themselves wholly incapable of defending us with any kind of success or reputation against a part of it. His lordship brought into one point of view the whole misconduct of administration, pointed out their ignorance and inability in the most remarkable instances, with proper animadversions thereon, and laid immediately at their doors the deaths of those thousands of brave men who have been sacrificed in the course of the American war.

His lordship remarked, how entirely the ministry had lost all confidence of the people; that confidence, he said, which it was so necessary for a ministry to enjoy, before they could act with efficacy and success: finally maintaining, that the spirit of the public was so damped by the present men in power, that they really could not find it in their hearts to wish for victory while they continued to guide the reins of government. His lordship therefore moved, "For an humble address to his majesty, praying, that his majesty would be graciously pleased to remove the present servants of the crown from his confidence, advice, and councils."

The noble lord's motion brought on a very warm and general debate; after which there appeared, upon its being put,

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Not contents,	60
Majority,	38

Lord Abingdon's motion, which his lordship had moved by way of amendment to the motion for addressing his majesty, being got rid of, the duke of Richmond proposed another amendment, by moving, "That an humble address be presented to his majesty, praying, that his majesty would be graciously pleased to

change the present system of measures laid down in the cabinet, and pursued by his majesty's ministers."

His grace represented, with his usual good sense and force of argument, the very generous principle of our politics for some years back, pointed out the many unhappy events which had ensued therefrom, together with the calamitous state to which we were now reduced, and was confident that nothing but an entire alteration of our public measures could possibly save the British empire from utter destruction.

A second debate, equally warm and spirited with the first, now took place, after which his grace's motion was rejected, by a majority of 34, there being,

Contents,	32
Non contents,	66

The two amendments being severally thrown out, lord Weymouth's motion, as originally stated, was put and carried without a division. After which the house adjourned.

At the court at St. James's, the 18th of June, 1779.

P R E S E N T,  
The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS the ambassador of the king of Spain has, by order of his court, delivered to lord viscount Weymouth a paper, in which it is declared, that his Catholic Majesty intends to have recourse to arms, under the groundless pretence of obtaining reparation for injuries supposed to have been received; and whereas the said ambassador has received orders to retire from this kingdom without taking leave. His majesty, being determined to take such measures as are necessary for vindicating the honour of his crown, is pleased, by and with the advice of his privy council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that general reprisals be granted against the ships, goods and subjects of the king of Spain, so that as well, his majesty's fleet and ships, as also all other ships and vessels that shall be commissioned by letters of marque or general reprisals, or otherwise, by his majesty's commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral of Great-Britain, shall and may lawfully seize all ships, vessels and goods belonging to the king of Spain, or his subjects, or others inhabitants within any the territories of the king of Spain, and bring the same to judgment in any of the courts of admiralty within his majesty's dominions; and to that end, his majesty's advocate-general, with the advocate of the admiralty, are forthwith to prepare the draught of a commission, and present the same to his majesty at his board, authorising the commissioners for executing the office of lord high admiral, or any person or persons by them empowered and appointed, to issue forth and grant letters of marque and reprisal to any of his majesty's subjects, or others whom the said commissioners shall deem fitly qualified in that behalf, for the apprehending, seizing and taking the ships, vessels and goods belonging to Spain, and the vassals and subjects of the king of Spain, or any inhabiting within his countries, territories or dominions; and that such powers and clauses be inserted in the said commission as have been usual, and are according to former precedents:—And his majesty

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