

His Majesty's Declaration of War against the King of Spain. George R.

The constant Object of Our Attention, since Our Accession to the Throne, has been, if possible, to put an End to the Calamities of War, and to settle the publick Tranquillity upon a Solid and Lasting Foundation. To prevent those Calamities from being extended still farther; and because the most perfect Harmony between Great Britain and Spain, is at all times, the Mutual Interest of Both Nations, it has been our earnest Desire to maintain the strictest Amity with the King of Spain, and to Accommodate the Disputes between us and that Crown in the most amicable Manner. This Object we have steadily pursued notwithstanding the many Partialities shewn by the Spaniards to our Enemies the French, during the Course of the Present War, inconsistent with their Neutrality: And most essential Proofs have been given of the Friendship and Regard of the Court of Great Britain for the King of Spain and his Family. After a Conduct so friendly, and so full of good Faith, on our part, it was Matter of great Surprise to Us, to find a Memorial delivered on the Twenty third Day of July last, by Monsieur Duple Minister Plenipotentiary of France, to one of our Principal Secretaries of State, expressly relating to the Disputes between us and the Crown of Spain; and declaring, that if those Objects should bring on a War, the French King would be obliged to take part therein, our surprise was increased, when afterwards, this unprecedented and Offensive Step, made by a Power in open War with Us, was avowed by the Spanish Minister to our Ambassador at Madrid, to have been taken with the full Approbation and Consent of the King of Spain. But as this Avowal was accompanied with the most becoming Apologies on the part of the King of Spain, and with assurances, that such Memorial should never have been delivered, if it had been foreseen that we should have looked upon it in an offensive Light; and that the King of Spain was at Liberty, and ready to adjust all his Differences with Great Britain, without the Intervention of France; and soon after we had the Satisfaction to be informed by our Ambassador at Madrid, that the Spanish Minister, taking Notice of the Reports industriously spread of an approaching Rupture, had acquainted him, that the King of Spain had at no time been more intent on cultivating a good Correspondence with us; and as the Spanish Ambassador at our Court made repeated Declarations to the same Effect, we thought our selves bound in Justice and Prudence to forbear coming to Extremities. But the same tender concern for the welfare of our Subjects prevented our accelerating precipitately a War with Spain, if it could possibly be avoided, made it necessary for us to endeavour to know with Certainty, what were the engagements and real Intentions of the Court of Spain. therefore as we had Information that Engagements had been late