

Contracted between the Courts of Madrid and Versailles; and it was soon after industriously spread throughout all Europe, by ~~the~~ of France, that the purport of those Engagements was hostile to Great Britain, and ~~Spain~~ was on the point of entering into the War. We directed our Ambassador to devise in the most friendly Terms, a Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between France and Spain; or of such Articles thereof as immediately related to the Interest of Great Britain, if any such there were; or at least an Assurance that there were none incompatible with the Friendship Subsisting between Us and the Crown of Spain. Our Astonishment & Concern was great, when we learnt, that so far from giving Satisfaction upon so reasonable an Application; the Spanish Minister had declined answering, with reasonings and Insinuations of every hostile Tendency: And as, at the same time, we had Intelligence, that Great Armaments were making in Spain, by Sea and Land, we thought it Absolutely Necessary to try once more, if a Rupture could be avoided: We therefore directed our Ambassador to ask in a firm but friendly Manner, Whether the Court of Madrid intended to join the French, Our Enemies, to act hostilely against Great Britain or to depart from its Neutrality; and if he found the Spanish Minister avoided to give a clear Answer, to Insinuate in the most decent Manner, that the refusing or avoiding to answer a question so reasonable, could only arise from the King of Spain's having already engaged, or resolved to take part against Us, and must be looked upon as ~~an~~ hostile Intention, and equivalent to a Declaration of War, and that ~~we~~ leave the Court of Madrid. The peremptory refusal by the Court of ~~Spain~~ ~~to~~ ~~answer~~ ~~the~~ ~~question~~ ~~proposed~~ ~~to~~ ~~them~~ ~~with~~ ~~regard~~ ~~to~~ ~~any~~ ~~of~~ ~~those~~ ~~reasonable~~ ~~Demands~~ ~~made~~ ~~on~~ ~~our~~ ~~part~~, and the solemn ~~assertions~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~time~~ ~~made~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~Spanish~~ ~~Minister~~, that they considered the War, as then actually declared, proved to a Demonstration, that their Resolution to act offensively, was so absolutely and irrevocably taken, that it could not be any longer dissembled or denied.

The King of Spain, therefore, having been induced, without any Provocation on our side to consider the War, as already commenced against Us, which has in Effect been declared at Madrid. We trust, that by the Blessing of almighty God on the Justice of our Cause, and by the Assistance of our Loving Subjects, we shall be able to defeat the Ambitious Designs, which have formed this Union between the two Branches of the House of Bourbon; have now begun anew War; and portend the most Dangerous Consequences to all Europe. — Therefore, We have thought fit to declare, and do hereby declare War against the said King of Spain; and we will in pursuance of such Declaration, vigorously prosecute the said War, wherein the honour of our Crown, the welfare of our Subjects, and the Prosperity of this Nation, which we are determined at all times with our utmost power to preserve and support are so greatly concerned, and we do hereby will and require Our Generals and Commanders of our Forces Our Commissioners for Executing the Office of Our High Admiralty of Great Britain,