

signed. Hitherto the Ministers have been silent upon this Subject: I dread more the Silence of Administration than the loudest Cry of Opposition. Have they, my Lords, certain Intelligence that it is intended against the *Moors*; and that Seventeen Ships completely manned, and 28,000 Troops, ready to embark, are really destined to conquer the Deserts of *Morocco*, and to wage War with the Lions and Tigers of *Africa*? What then are their Assurances of the true Purpose which has induced *Spain* to congregate such a prodigious Force? *Spanish* Assurances are certainly not to be relied on: For, is it probable, have you the smallest Room to hope, that the House of *Bourbon*, smarting with the Ignominy, and sore with the Disgrace, which overwhelmed her Arms in the last War—a War begun, as she affirms, by Acts of Piracy in *Europe*, and of Treachery and Depredation in *America*—have you the smallest Reason to suppose, that she does not meditate Retaliation; or that she will wave her Resentment from Notions of Punctilio, or from the Dread of breaking her Engagements?

My Lords, I do not trust to the Professions of Statesmen, when the Interest of the State is concerned; and I hope some Lord, high in his Majesty's Service, will give this House, and give the Public, certain Information concerning a Matter of such eventful Consequence to the Kingdom.—The Public, my Lords, require such Information; and your Lordships have a Right to demand it.

My Lords, I have trespassed very long upon your Lordships Time, and must apologise for having presumed to deviate from the strict Line of Order, by introducing Matter foreign from the Debate; but, my Lords, as what I have mentioned deeply
concerns