

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to
the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid,
Dec. 11, 1761. Separate and Secret.
Received January 9, 1762.*

My Lord,

IN obedience to the King's Commands, I took the earliest Opportunity, after *Potter's* Arrival, of writing to Sir *Charles Saunders*, to Major General *Parflov* at *Gibraltar*, and to all His Majesty's Consuls in *Spain*, as well as to Mr. *Hay*, that he might give the same Notice, to those who are in *Portugal*, in order, that every one might put himself, and His Majesty's Trading Subjects, properly on their Guard, on account of the critical Situation, in which our Court then stood with regard to *Spain*.

I have in vain asked Leave, to dispatch a Messenger for *Lisbon*, to obtain Passports from the Court of *Portugal*, for myself, as was practised by Sir *Benjamin Keene*, for his Journey, when he left *Madrid* in the Year 1739. The Order for Post Horses has been refused me; otherwise, I had prepared the several Letters His Majesty had commanded me to write to Commodore *Keppel*, to Sir *Charles Saunders*, and Major General *Parflov*. My House is surrounded with 'pies; I am so much watched myself; and such strict Orders are given to stop every one going from *Madrid*; that even if a Person would consent to go on this Errand, I could not trust him; yet, I hope, a Method I have caused to be taken will convey the Intelligence