

The *French* perceiving, by our Preparations, that we were really in Earnest, ordered their Ambassador in *England*, to demand the Reason of the vast Armaments we were making, and for what Purpose they were intended? He was answered, that we might with equal Justice require an *Eclaircissement* of their Conduct for some Time past. The Ambassador represented, that our Proceedings tended to break the good Understanding that so happily subsisted between the two Courts, and would certainly prevent the good Effects of the Conferences at *Paris* for adjusting their Differences. The K--- answered, with a true *British* Spirit, *That they had amus'd us long enough, and that he would be trifled with no longer.* The Ambassador, in another Conference, declared, that our sending any Ships of Force into *America*, the King his Master would look upon as a Breach of the Peace. He was answered from the same Mouth, *So he might if he pleased.* Thus did the *French* put in Practice all their Arts, either to cajole us by fair and delusive Speeches into a stupid Supineness and Inactivity, or by their haughty and menacing Language to deter us from exerting ourselves in Defence of our *American* Settlements; and the Ambassador had the Mortification to be an Eye-witness to the noble Spirit that animated our Councils, and the Resolution of the Parliament to support his Majesty in maintaining the just Rights of his Crown and Kingdom against all Invaders. For,

*March 25,* his Majesty was pleased to send a Message to both Houses of Parliament, importing, That his Majesty finding it requisite, from the present Situation of Affairs, to augment his Forces by Sea and Land, and to take such other Measures as may best tend to preserve the general Peace of *Europe*, and to secure the just Rights and Possessions of his Crown in *America*, as well as to repel any Attempts whatever, which may be formed against his Majesty and his Kingdoms, doubts not but that his faithful Parliament will enable him to make such Augmentations as the Emergency of Affairs in this critical Conjunction may require.

Upon this Message both Houses presented very loyal Addresses, expressing their utmost Zeal and Affection to his Majesty's Royal Person, Family and Government, assuring his Majesty of their effectual Support and declaring their Resolution to repel every Attempt that may be made to de-

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