

abroad. In this Contest, our Resources are exhausted, whilst those of our Rivals are spared; and we are, every Year of the continuance of this War, altering the Balance of our public Strength and Riches in their Favour.

We think ourselves bound, most dread Sovereign, to express our Fears and Apprehensions to your Majesty, that at a Time when your Majesty's gracious Speech from the Throne has hinted, and your vast Naval Preparations, in a Style much more explicit, announce to us and the World, the critical State in which we stand; with regard to the great neighbouring Powers, we have not the Comfort to learn, from that Speech, from any Assurance of your Majesty's Servants, or even from common Fame, that any Alliance whatever has been made with the other great States of *Europe*, in order to cover us from the complicated Perils so manifestly imminent over this Nation; we have as little Reason to be certain that Alliances of the most dangerous Kind are not formed against us.

In this State of anxious Doubt and Danger, we have Recourse to the Clemency and Wisdom of your Majesty, the tender Parent and vigilant Guardian of your People; that you will graciously