



N<sup>o</sup> 7.

DISCOURS DU ROI GUILLAUME AUX ÉTATS-GÉNÉRAUX  
( 2 JUILLET 1701 ).

(King William's speech to the States).

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High and mighty Lords,

I always come into this country with joy, but more especially in this dangerous conjuncture of affairs, because I foresee my presence will be necessary for the service of the state. I was in hopes, *and desired to have passed the rest of my days in repose and peace; and, after the end of my days, to have left this state in a quiet and flourishing condition.* To which end I have al-

ways laboured, particularly after the conclusion of the last peace. But since there have happened such great alterations in the affairs of Europe, that we know not what will be the disposal of Divine Providence concerning them; nevertheless, I can assure your High Mightinesses, that whether affairs may be accommodated without coming to further embroilments, or whether we must be obliged to take arms again, I persist in the same affection and the same zeal, which I ever had for the service and prosperity of those Provinces; and will contribute, as far as lies in my power, whatever may tend to advance the welfare of this state, the maintenance of their liberties and religion, and their particular security, as well as that of Europe. I am overjoyed to find all things still in a quiet condition; which, next to the blessing of the Almighty, must be ascribed to the speedy and unanimous resolution of your High Mightinesses to put yourselves in a posture of defence. I am persuaded, that the respective confederates will contribute strenuously towards it;

which I look upon as the only means to prevent a war, or, in case of a rupture, to defend the state from the danger that threatens it. It is a great satisfaction to me, that I can assure your High Mightinesses not only of my affection, but of the whole English nation; and that they are ready to assist this state, and strongly to contribute towards their defence, and to whatever may tend to the common security : and this is what your High Mightinesses may be fully convinced of. I hope the Great God will bless the means which you have made use of, either by way of negotiation, or by force of arms, in case of a rupture, to attain the end proposed; that is to say, reasonable security for the common cause and particularly the preservation of this state in their liberties and religion.

There is nothing which I wish with more fervency, and I will contribute towards it whatever lies in my power.

This is what I thought necessary to say at present; only that I desire the continuance of your High Mightinesses' affection and amity.

