



N° 10.

LE DERNIER DISCOURS DU ROI GUILLAUME AU
PARLEMENT D'ANGLETERRE.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I promise myself you are met together full of that just sense of the common danger of Europe, and the resentment of the late proceedings of the French king, which has been so fully and universally expressed in the loyal and seasonable addresses of my people.

The owning and setting up the pretended prince of Wales for king of England, is not only the highest indignity offered to me and the nation, but does

so nearly concern every man who has a regard for the protestant religion, or the present and future quiet and happiness of his country, that I need not press you to lay it seriously to heart, and to consider what further effectual means may be used for securing the succession of the crown in the protestant line, and existing the hopes of all pretenders, and their open and secret abettors. *By the French king's placing his grandson on the throne of Spain, he is in a condition to oppress the rest of Europe, unless speedy and effectual measures be taken.* Under this pretence, he is become the real master of the whole Spanish monarchy : he has made it to be entirely depending on France and disposes of it as of his own dominions; and, by that means, he has surrounded his neighbours in such a manner, that, though the name of peace may be said to continue, yet they are put to the expense and inconvenience of a war.

This must affect England in the nearest and most sensible manner in respect to our trade,

which will soon become precarious in all the valuable branches of it ; in respect to our peace and safety at home, which we cannot hope should long continue; and in respect to that part which England ought to take in the preservation of the liberty of Europe.

In order to obviate the general calamity with which the rest of Christendom is threatened by this exorbitant power of France, *I have concluded several alliances, according to the encouragement given me by both Houses of Parliament, which y will direct shall be laid before you, and which I doubt not you will enable me to make good.*

They are some other treaties still depending, that shall be likewise communicated to you as soon as they are perfected.

It is fit I should tell you the eyes of all Europe are upon this Parliament; all matters are at a stand still your resolutions are known, and therefore no time ought to be lost.

You have yet an opportunity, by God's bless-

ing, to secure to you and your posterity the quiet enjoyment of your religion and liberties, if you are not wanting to yourselves, but will exert the ancient vigour of the English nation; but I tell you plainly, my opinion is, if you do not lay hold of this occasion, you have no reason to hope for another. In order to do your part, it will be necessary to have a great strength at sea, and to provide for the security of your ships in harbour, and also that there be such a force at land as is expected in proportion to the forces of our allies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I do recommend these matters to you with that concern and earnestness which their importance requires; at the same time I cannot but press you to take care of the public credit, which cannot be preserved but by keeping sacred that maxim, that they shall never be losers who trust to a parliamentary security.

It is always with regret when I do ask aids of

my people, but you will observe that I desire nothing which relates to any personal expense of mine; I am only pressing you to do all you can for your own safety and honour at so critical and dangerous a time, and I am willing that what is given should be wholly appropriated to the purposes for which it is intended.

And since I am speaking on this head, I think it proper to put you in mind, that during the late war I ordered the accounts to be laid yearly before the Parliament, and also gave my assent to several bills for taking the public accounts, that my subjects might have satisfaction how the money given for the war was applied; and I am willing that matter may be put in any further way of examination, that it may appear whether there were any misapplications or mismanagements, or whether the debt that remains upon us has really arisen from the shortness of the supplies, or the deficiency of the funds.

I have already told you how necessary despatch will be for carrying on that great public business

whereon our safety, and all that is valuable to us, depend. *I hope what time can be spared will be employed about those other desirable things which I have so often recommended from the throne; I mean the forming some good bills for encouraging trade, and the farther suppressing of vice.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I hope your are come together determined to avoid all manner of disputes and differences, resolved to act with a general and hearty concurrence for promoting the common cause, which alone can make this a happy session.

I should think it as great a blessing as could befall England, if I could observe you as much inclined to lay aside those un happy fatal animosities which divide and weaken you, as I am disposed to make all my subjects safe and easy as to any, even the highest, offences committed against me.

Let me conjure you to disappoint the only

hopes of our enemies by your unanimity. I have shown, and will always show, how desirous I am to be the common father of all my people; do you, in like manner, lay aside parties and divisions; let there be no other distinction heard of amongst us for the future but of those who are for the protestant religion and the present establishment, and of those who mean a Popish prince and a French government.

I will only add this, if you do in good earnest desire *to see England hold the balance of Europe*, and to be indeed at the head of the protestant interest, it will appear by the present opportunity.

