

The London Gazette

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From Thursday June 5. to Saturday June 7. 1712.

Westminster, June 6.

HER Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in Her Royal Robes, seated on the Throne with the usual Solemnity, Sir William Oldes, Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers, the Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the Publick Bills following,

An Act for Enlarging, Amending and Maintaining the Road betwixt Northfleet, Gravesend and Rochester, in the County of Kent.

An Act for Repairing the Highway between Highgate Gatehouse, in the County of Middlesex and Barnet Blackhouse, in the County of Hertford.

An Act for making effectual such Agreement as shall be made between the Royal African Company and their Creditors.

And to Six Private Bills.

After which Her Majesty made the following most Gracious Speech to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE making Peace and War is the undoubted Prerogative of the Crown, yet such is the just Confidence I place in You, that at the Opening of this Session, I acquainted You that a Negotiation for a General Peace was begun, and afterwards by Messengers, I promised to communicate to You the Terms of Peace, before the same should be concluded.

In pursuance of that Promise, I now come to let You know upon what Terms a General Peace may be made.

I need not mention the Difficulties which arise from the very Nature of this Affair; and it is but too apparent that these Difficulties have been increased by other Obstructions, artfully contrived to hinder this great and good Work.

Nothing however has moved me from steadily pursuing, in the first Place, the true Interest of my own Kingdoms, and I have not omitted any thing which might procure to our Allies what is due to them by Treaties; and what is necessary for their Security.

The assuring of the Protestant Succession, as by Law Established, in the House of Hanover to these Kingdoms, being what I have nearest at Heart, particular Care is taken not only to have that acknowledged in the strongest Terms, but to have an additional Security by the removal of that Person out of the Dominions of France, who has pretended to disturb this Settlement.

The Apprehension that Spain and the West-Indies might be united to France was the chief Inducement to begin this War; and the effectual preventing of such an Union, was the Principle I laid down at the Commencement of this Treaty.

Former Examples, and the late Negotiations, sufficiently shew how difficult it is to find Means to accomplish this Work; I would not consent my self with such as are Speculative, or depend on Treaties only, I insisted on what is solid, and to have at Hand the Power of executing what should be agreed.

I can therefore now tell you that France at last is brought to offer, that the Duke of Anjou shall for himself and his Descendants, renounce for ever, all Claim to the Crown of France: And that this important Article may be exposed to no Hazard, the Performance is to accompany the Promise.

At the same time, the Succession to the Crown of France, is to be declared after the Death of the present Dauphin and his Sons, to be in the Duke of Burgundy and his Sons; in the Duke of Orleans and his Sons; and so on, to the rest of the House of Bourbon.

As to Spain and the Indies, the Succession to those Dominions, after the Duke of Anjou and his Children, is to descend to such Prince as shall be agreed upon at the Treaty, for ever excluding the rest of the House of Bourbon.

For confirming the Renunciations and Settlements before-mentioned, it is further offered, that they shall be Ratified in the most strong and solemn Manner both in France and Spain; and that those Kingdoms, as well as all the other Powers engaged in the present War, shall be Guaranties to the same.

The Nature of this Proposal is such, that it executes it self. The Interest of Spain is to support it; and in France the Persons to whom that Succession is to belong, will be ready and powerful enough to vindicate their own Right.

France and Spain are now more effectually divided than ever. And thus, by the Blessing of God, will a real Balance of Power be fixed in Europe, and remain liable to as few Accidents as humane Affairs can be exempted from.

A Treaty of Commerce between these Kingdoms and France has been entered upon; but the excessive Duties laid on some Goods, and the Prohibitions of others, make it impossible to finish this Work so soon as were to be desired. Care is however taken to establish a Method of settling this Matter, and in the mean time Provision is made, that the same Privileges and Advantages as shall be granted to any other Nation by France, shall be granted in like manner to us.

The Division of the Island of St. Christopher between Us and the French, having been the Cause of great Inconveniency and Damage to my Subjects, I have demanded to have an absolute Cession made to me of that whole Island, and France agrees to this Demand.