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# P A P E R S

Relative to the

## Rupture with SPAIN,

Laid before Both

## HOUSES of PARLIAMENT,

On *Friday* the Twenty ninth Day of *January*, 1762.

By His Majesty's Command.



L O N D O N :

Printed by *Mark Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty; and by the  
Assigns of *Robert Baskett*. 1762.

which Mr. Stanley had received from the Duc de Choiseul, and transmitted to me, he also gave me two supplemental Memorials of a most extraordinary Nature; Copies whereof I send your Excellency inclosed, together with a Copy of my Letter to that Minister, returning the Two said Memorials, as totally inadmissible.

With regard to the Memorial relative to the Disputes between *England* and *Spain*, that Piece will best speak its own Enormity, and the extreme Offensiveness of the Matter which it contains; at the same Time my Letter, by Order of the King, to M. de Buffe, sending back the said Memorial, will sufficiently convey to your Excellency the just Sensations which such a Paper has excited here in the Breast of every one to whom it was imparted.

It is the King's Pleasure therefore, that your Excellency should immediately communicate to M. Wall the above-mentioned Memorial, together with my Letter to M. de Buffe returning the same; and in case the *Spanish* Minister shall avow that this strange Piece has really been authorized by the Court of *Madrid*, your Excellency will remonstrate, with Energy and Firmness, the unexampled Irregularity of such a Proceeding on the Part of *Spain*, not only still in Amity with *Great Britain*, (though Discussions of Difficulty unluckily engage the Two Courts) but whose Intercourse has hitherto professed itself to be friendly, and whose declared Aims have all along seemed to point to an amicable Adjustment of the long subsisting Disputes relating to the Coasts of *Honduras*, &c. by some equitable Regulation of the Enjoyment of the Privilege of cutting Logwood by the Subjects of *Great Britain*; you will farther express with the utmost Seriousness to M. Wall, that nothing can equal the King's Surprise and Regret at a Transaction so unprecedented, except His Majesty's steady Purpose, and immoveable Determination, not to be diverted, by any Considerations, from that even Tenor of Conduct towards *Spain*, which His just and constant Care of His People dictates, and which His Royal Wisdom and Magnanimity have hitherto pursued.

On the one Hand then, His Majesty will by no means add Facilities for the Satisfaction of that Court, in consideration of any Intimation, on the Part of a hostile Power, of Union of Councils, or of present or future Conjunctions; nor, on the other Hand, will His Majesty's Equity and Moderation cease to dispose His Royal Mind to the same reasonable Terms of Accommodation with *Spain*, with regard to such Objects, and in such Manner, as the King, excited by Inclination and determined by System, has, through the Course of this Negotiation, invariably declared Himself ready to embrace.

As to the Three Points mentioned in this Memorial; First, Concerning the Restitution of Prizes made against the Flag of *Spain*, or supposed to have been taken in Violation of the Territory of that Kingdom, it suffices to say, That the Courts, here instituted to take Cognizance of all Matters of such a Nature, are always open to the Parties who think fit to seek Redress in due Course of Justice; and it is superfluous to observe, That the Ministers of His most Christian Majesty are not a Tribunal to which *Great Britain* allows an Appeal.

Next, As to the stale and inadmissible Pretensions of the *Biscayans* and *Guispuscoans* to fish at *Newfoundland*, on which important Point your Excellency is already so fully instructed, you will again on this Occasion let M. Wall clearly understand, That this is a Matter held sacred; and that no Concession on the Part of His Majesty, so destructive to this true and capital Interest of *Great Britain*, will be yielded to *Spain*, however abetted and supported: And it is still hoped, that Prudence as well as Justice will induce that Court no longer to expect, as the Price of an Union which it is at least as much her Interest as ours to maintain inviolate, a Sacrifice which can never be thought of.

Thirdly, With regard to Disputes relative to the Logwood Coasts, the King will still receive with Pleasure, agreeable to His Majesty's repeated Declarations to the Court of *Spain*, any just Overtures on the Part of his Catholick Majesty (provided they be not conveyed through the Channel of *France*, by whose Intervention the King will never treat of these Disputes) for amicably adjusting the same, and for removing effectually every Source of reasonable Complaint or Dispute on this Head, by terminating to mutual Satisfaction all Things relating thereto by a candid and equitable Regulation.

After the above Memorial of *France*, and the Intimation therein, little short of a Declaration of a War in Reversion, and that not at a Distance, held out in *terrorem* on the Part of *France* and *Spain*, M. Wall cannot wonder that your Excellency is ordered by His Majesty, as you hereby are, to desire again, in this Conjunction, a proper Explanation with regard to the Naval Armaments that have been so long preparing in the various Ports of *Spain*: And his Excellency cannot but himself be sensible how strongly the King is called upon, in the Order of Things, and from the indispensable Motives of what He owes to His Crown and People, to expect that the Court of *Madrid* will come to some explicit and categorical Eclaircissement with regard to the Destination of her Fleets, as well as with respect to her Dispositions to maintain and cultivate Friendship and good Correspondence with *Great Britain*: And this Measure is become the more highly necessary, as the Emissaries and Partizans of *France* here are not a little active in endeavouring to infuse, particularly into People's Minds in the City, for Purposes too obvious to mention, that a Rupture with *Spain*; in Conjunction with *France*, is approaching.

Although in the Course of this Instruction to your Excellency, I could not, with such an insolent Memorial from *France* before me, but proceed on the Supposition, that, insidious as that Court is, she could not dare to commit in such a Manner the Name of his Catholick Majesty, without being authorized thereto: I must not, however, conceal from your Excellency, that it is thought possible here that the Court of *France*, though not wholly unauthorized, may, with her usual Artifice in Negotiation, have put much Exaggeration into this Matter; and in case, upon entering into Remonstrance on this Affair, you shall perceive a Disposition in M. Wall to explain away and disavow the Authorization of *Spain* to this offensive Transaction of *France*, and to come to categorical and satisfactory Declarations relatively to the final Intentions of *Spain*,

*Spain*, your Excellency will, with Readiness and your usual Address, adapt yourself to so desirable a Circumstance, and will open to the Court of *Madrid* as handsome a Retreat as may be, in case you perceive from the *Spanish* Minister that they sincerely wish to find one, and to remove, by an effectual Satisfaction, the unfavourable Impressions which this Memorial of the Court of *France* has justly and unavoidably made on the Mind of His Majesty.

*Translation of a Memorial relating to Spain, delivered to Mr. Secretary Pitt by M. de Buffy, July 23<sup>d</sup>, 1761.*

AS it is essential, even as *France* and *England* desire it, that the projected Treaty of Peace should serve as a Basis to a solid Reconciliation between the Two Crowns, which may not be disturbed by the Interests of a Third Person, and the Engagements which the one or the other Court may have taken prior to their Reconciliation, the King of *Spain* shall be invited to guaranty the Treaty of future Peace between the King and the King of *Great Britain*. This Guaranty will obviate present and future Inconveniencies with regard to the Solidity of the Peace.

The King will not conceal from His Britannick Majesty, that the Differences of *Spain* with *England* alarm him; and make him fear, if they were not adjusted, a new War in *Europe* and in *America*. The King of *Spain* has trusted to His Majesty the Three Points of Dissention which subsist between his Crown and the *British* Crown, which are,

*First*, The Restitution of some Prizes made during the present War on his Catholick Majesty's Flag, and the Satisfaction due for the Violation of the *Spanish* Territory by the *English* Navy.

*Second*, The Liberty to the *Spanish* Nation of the Fishery on the Bank of *Newfoundland*.

*Third*, The Destruction of the *English* Establishments formed on the *Spanish* Territory in the Bay of *Honduras*.

These Three Articles may easily be adjusted according to the Justice of the Two Sovereigns; and the King earnestly wishes, that some Medium may be found, which may content the *Spanish* and *English* Nations on these Two Points: But he cannot conceal from *England* the Danger which he sees, and of which he shall be obliged to partake, if these Objects, which appear sensibly to affect his Catholick Majesty, should end in War. Therefore His Majesty thinks it a primary Consideration, for the Advantage and the Solidity of the Peace, that, at the same Time that this desirable Blessing shall be concluded between *France* and *England*, His Britannick Majesty may terminate His Differences with *Spain*, and may consent that his Catholick Majesty shall be invited to guaranty the Treaty which is to reconcile, God grant for ever, the King and the King of *England*.

As to the rest, his Majesty does not trust his Fears in this respect to the Court of *London*, but with the most upright and the most frank Intentions to prevent

prevent every Thing which may disturb, for the future, the Union of the *French* and *English* Nations; and he desires His Britannick Majesty, whom he supposes animated with the same Desire, to acquaint him naturally with his Opinion on so essential an Object.

*Translation of a Letter from Mr. Secretary Pitt to M. de Buffy.*

*Whitehall, July 24, 1761.*

S I R,

HAVING explained myself, in our Conversation of Yesterday, on certain Engagements of *France* with *Spain*, concerning the Discussions between this last Crown and *Great Britain*, the which your Court did not, till this Moment, announce to us had been taken before their first Proposals were made here for the particular Peace of the two Crowns; and as you desired, for the greater Exactness, to take a Note of what passed between us on so weighty a Subject; I renew to you, Sir, by Order of the King, Word for Word, the same Declaration which I made to you Yesterday; and apprizing you again of the King's most sincere Sentiments of Friendship and real Consideration towards His Catholick Majesty in every Thing that is reasonable and just, I am again most plainly to declare to you, in the Name of His Majesty, That He will not suffer the Disputes with *Spain* to be mixed in any Shape whatsoever with the Negotiation of the Peace of the two Crowns; to which I am to add, that it will be even considered as offensive to the Dignity of the King, and not compatible with the Good Faith of the Negotiation, to make further Mention of such an Idea.

Moreover, it is not understood that *France* has, at any Time, a Right to intermeddle in like Discussions between *Great Britain* and *Spain*.

Such just and indispensable Considerations have determined the King to order me to send you back the inclosed Memorial concerning *Spain*, as totally inadmissible.

I also send you back, Sir, as totally inadmissible, the Memorial relating to the King of *Prussia*, as affecting the Honour of *Great Britain*, and the unshaken Fidelity with which His Majesty will fulfil His Engagements with His Allies.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

W. PITT.

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Segovia, August 31, 1761. Received September 11th.

I Must now acknowledge the Receipt of a Copy of your Letter of the 24th of July to M. de Bussy, together with Copies of two Memorials presented by that Minister, both of which Performances you returned back as totally inadmissible.

A few Hours after the Messenger Ardouin arrived at Segovia, I went to St. Ildephonso, where I passed a considerable Time with Gen. Wall, and as I have had four other Conferences with his Excellency since the first, I will set down, with the utmost Precision in my Power, all that has passed between us.

It was unnecessary for me to communicate what related to the Negotiations for Peace with the Court of Versailles, as the Marquis Grimaldi had transmitted Copies of that whole Transaction; however from my shewing a Readiness to give that Mark of His Majesty's Confidence in the Spanish Ministry, M. Wall told me, the Catholick King was truly sensible of His Majesty's great Attention towards Spain, and was convinced the Distance of England from hence occasioned this Court's not receiving the earliest Information from us of what was in Agitation.

I then delivered to M. Wall the Copy of the Memorial relating to Spain, desiring him to read it over, and to acquaint me whether it was Word for Word such as had been authorized from hence; on returning it to me, his Excellency said it was verbatim what had been sent by Order of the Catholick King to Versailles; whereupon I read your Letter to M. de Bussy in which the Memorial was returned, saying, It was impossible for me to give a stronger Idea of the Impression that irregular Proceeding had made in England, than by communicating to this Court the Manner in which such an unexampled Overture had been received, looked into, and sent back, by the King's Command.

Nothing has been omitted, on my Part, to shew what an unparalleled Proceeding this was from a King, not only in Amity with Great Britain, but whose Professions (notwithstanding the difficult Discussions which had so long and so unhappily subsisted between the Two Crowns) had been uniformly calculated to convince my Court, the only Aim of that of Madrid was amicably to adjust our Differences concerning the Logwood Coasts.

With relation to the Idea of the proposed Guaranty of Spain, I desired to know of M. Wall, Wherefore a Power that had no Share in the War was to be invited to guarantee the future Peace? And I entered very minutely into the Engagements taken by Spain with France in regard to our Disputes with the Catholick King; when I could not help expressing the truest Regret to find, not only of how long Standing those Engagements were, from the Duke

Duke of Choiseul's own Confession; but also to perceive, they had been so industriously concealed during such a Space of Time, and to find them now produced in so insolent a Manner by our Enemies, because (for Views too obvious to be mentioned) the French Ministry looked upon that Period as the most critical Moment; yet I persuaded myself the proper Reception this Transaction had met with at Home would clear up all M. de Choiseul's Doubts, and blast all his Expectations, since he could not fail being at present convinced, no Menaces of a Union of Councils, nor any Threats intimating little less than the Reversionary Declaration of War from Spain and France (perhaps not far off) could shake, much less intimidate or force, England to permit her Spanish Disputes either to be blended with our present Negotiation with the Court of Versailles, or to suffer France upon any Occasion, to meddle in our Discussions with his Catholick Majesty; and moreover, M. Bussy had been acquainted in the most explicit Terms, That it would hereafter be considered as offensive to the King's Dignity, if any further Mention was made of such Ideas: This I informed M. Wall was the energick Language that had been held to the French Minister at London; and that my Orders were, to remonstrate with his Excellency on the unprecedented Conduct of Spain in conveying, at such a Conjunction, through such a Channel, and in such Terms, her Sentiments to Great Britain. But I was commanded, whilst I expressed His Majesty's Surprize at so unheard of a Transaction, equally to make known the King's Regret to find the Court of Madrid had taken such a Step; yet His eminent Virtues would not permit even these Considerations, or these Motives, in any way to divert His unalterable Resolution of adhering to the steady Purpose and uniform Conduct His Royal Wisdom had hitherto observed towards Spain.

I repeatedly enforced how strong my Instructions were, to convince this Court it was not to be expected or imagined, that the Intimations of a hostile Prince, or any Insinuations of a Combination of Forces or Union of Interests between Spain and France, would in the least facilitate the Satisfaction which was asked from hence in relation to our Differences in America. But the same Magnanimity that dictated to the King these Sentiments, prescribed also to His Majesty's Equity the following Determination, which was the constant Language I had invariably held by my Sovereign's Commands, of His Royal Intention, being ever, and alike disposed to come to any reasonable Terms of Accommodation with Spain, finally to adjust our long subsisting Differences.

With regard to the Three Points contained in the Memorial presented as the Spanish Grievances, after dwelling upon the exact and unimpeached Justice of the English Courts of Judicature, I observed, it was the Fault of the Parties who thought themselves aggrieved, if they did not seek Redress in that due Course which was ever open for them to pursue, since there were the regular Courts established to enquire into all Matters of that Nature, and those who were not satisfied with the Decrees issued from thence, had always Recourse to the Lords of Appeals; but that, it must be owned, it gave no favourable Opinion



nion of a Cause about which the Clients only clamoured, without seeking to have it decided in the proper Forms of Law: And it was superfluous to add, how many Instances might be met with to ascertain this Assertion; therefore the First Article might be looked upon only in order to swell the Appearance of Grievances: And in all Lights, the *French* Ministers would never be authorized by us to take Cognizance of what was solely to be decided by *English* Tribunals.

As to the Second Article, containing the Claim so often set up by the *Biscayans* and *Guipuscoans*, to fish at *Newfoundland*, and as often denied by *England*, I had, in the clearest Terms I could make use of, shewed, that the first Discovery of that Island was made at the Expences and by the Command of *Henry VII.* and I had likewise demonstrated the uninterrupted Possession of it, from that Time to the present Date, to have belonged to the *English*, from their being constantly settled there, whilst the *Spaniards* never had any Establishments in those Parts; therefore it was absolutely impossible for *Great Britain* to make the least Concession in so clear a Right, and it was hoped *Spain* would no longer expect, as the Price of our Union, a Sacrifice which could never be granted by the Court of *London*.

Lastly, concerning the Disputes about the Coast of *Honduras*, I could add nothing to the repeated Declarations I had made in the King's Name, of the Satisfaction with which His Majesty would receive any just Overture from *Spain* (upon Condition that *France* was not to be the Channel of that Conveyance) for terminating amicably, and to mutual Satisfaction, every reasonable Complaint on this Matter, by proposing some equitable Regulation for securing to us the long enjoyed Privilege of cutting Logwood (an Indulgence confirmed by Treaty, and of course authorized in the most sacred Manner) nor could I give stronger Assurances than the past, of His Majesty's steady Purpose to cause all Establishments on the Logwood Coasts, contrary to the Territorial Jurisdiction of *Spain*, to be removed.

After having gone through these several Points, General *Wall*, as he had done upon a former Occasion, desired me to put into Writing the principal Heads of my Discourse, promising me to make a proper Use of them at the *Despatches*, for his incorrect Memory rendered such Notes absolutely necessary for him: I readily complied with his Excellency's Request, as I was certain by that Method the Catholick King would be exactly informed of what I meant to have conveyed to his Knowledge. The inclosed Paper marked *A* is the Copy of what I wrote down and gave to the *Spanish* Minister.

I proceeded by saying, although a precipitated Step could not be entirely recovered, yet it might be remedied; for, without any formal Retraction, the expressing some Concern for what had not been considered in all its Consequences, might soften, and even wipe off, any Impressions, however unfavourable, that might, nay, must have been made on the Mind of His Majesty by this Memorial from the Court of *France*.

As I thought I perceived a Disposition in *M. Wall*, in some Measure, to disavow the Offensiveness of this Step, I did not lose the Opportunity of suggesting every Pretext, and offering to his Excellency all Kinds of Handles to explain away what had so unavoidably given Disgust in *England*; and I endeavoured, in pursuance of what you so much recommended to me, to adapt myself to those Circumstances which were of a Nature to furnish this Court with the best Retreat imaginable.

I have here related, without Interruption, what has been alledged by me, and have set down all the Arguments I made use of; therefore I will now proceed to give an Account of what was insisted on by General *Wall*, in support of his own Reasonings, or advanced by his Excellency in Contradiction to mine.

The *Spanish* Minister began by acquainting me, that *M. Grimaldi* had conveyed to him all that had passed, either in Writing or in Discourse, between yourself, Sir, and *M. de Bussy*, as well as the Language *Mr. Stanley* had held with the Duke of *Choiseul* on the Memorial relating to *Spain*. His Excellency told me, the most Christian King having early intimated his Desire here, that his Catholick Majesty should guarantee the intended Peace between the Courts of *London* and *Versailles*; in order to render that Peace more permanent, the King of *Spain* had thought proper to agree to that Proposal's being made by *France* to *England*, as well as to consent to *France's* express Offer of endeavouring to accommodate the Disputes subsisting between *England* and *Spain*, at the same Time she was trying to put an End to a War which had lasted so long between the *British* and *French* Crowns: But he affirmed to me, that the Intention of the Court of *Madrid* in assenting to that Proposal, was totally void of any Design to retard the Peace, and absolutely free from the least Intention of giving Offence to His Majesty, tho' it appeared that Step had been productive of different Effects; that, as to *England's* declaring, she never would add Facilities towards accommodating her Differences with another Sovereign, in consideration of any Intimation from a Power at War, or the Threatenings of an Enemy, the Catholick King could not but applaud those Sentiments in His Majesty, which he felt so strongly within himself; adding, it was certain the Court of *London* was at Liberty to reject any Proposals coming from the *French* Ministry, yet that could not in any way influence the King of *Spain's* communicating whatever Measures he thought conducive to his Interests, to the most Christian King, his Catholick Majesty's Friend, Ally, and near Relation.

*M. Wall* pursued his Discourse, by acquainting me with *France's* having spontaneously offered to the Catholick King, (in case the Disputes of *Great Britain* and *Spain* should, at any Time hereafter, occasion a Rupture between our Two Courts) to unite her Forces with those of *Spain*, to prevent the *English* Encroachments in *America* upon his Catholick Majesty's Territory: An Offer which the *Spanish* Monarch had received with that Cordiality which was due to a Friend, who was determined even to involve herself in a fresh War, in order to defend *Spain*.

General *Wall* then asked me, Whether it was possible to be imagined in *England*, the Catholick King was seeking to provoke us; especially at a Time that the Court of *London* was in the most flourishing and most exalted Situation it had ever known, occasioned by the greatest Series of Prosperities that any single Nation had ever met with? And he assured me, the Catholick King, both before and at present, esteemed as well as valued the frequent Professions I had made, by Command from my Court, of His Majesty's Desire to adjust our mutual Differences amicably; but he perceived, the Terms on which those Disputes were fought to be accommodated, occasioned the Difficulty. The Catholick King, he said, did not think *England* would look upon the *French* Ministers as a Tribunal to which the Court of *London* would make an Appeal, nor meant it as such, when the First Article of Grievances was conveyed through that Channel. As to the Second, the Claim of the *Guipuscoans* and *Biscayans* to fish for *Bacallao*; it was what *Spain* had always insisted upon, and never had receded from by any Treaty. And Lastly, concerning *England's* evacuating all the usurped Settlements on the Logwood Coasts, it had never been offered, but upon such Conditions as were inconsistent with the Dignity of the *Spanish* Crown to accept of; since the Court of *London* would only consent, that, previous to her sending Orders to those unjust Settlers to remove, and to cause the Fortifications to be demolished, the Catholick King should be compelled to make known to the *English*, in what Manner the Logwood was to be assured to the King's Subjects, notwithstanding the *Spanish* Monarch had repeatedly given his Royal Word, a Method should be found out for that Purpose; and that, till it was adjusted in what Manner *Great Britain* should enjoy that Privilege, the *English* Cutters of Logwood should continue, without Interruption or Molestation of any Kind, to carry on their Commerce upon the Footing they at present exercise it. His Catholick Majesty only asking, that, for his own Royal Decorum, the usurped Establishments should be relinquished by the *English*, to prove that good Faith we picqued ourselves upon, and to convince *Spain*, we did not maintain those forcible Possessions, as Pledges, which sooner or later we imagined would compel the Court of *Madrid* to grant us our own Terms, and in the mean Time to increase (which the *British* Subjects did daily) the Encroachments upon the Coasts of *Honduras*.

This, Sir, to the best of my Recollection, is what has been advanced or replied by General *Wall* at our different Interviews. Yet, for greater Accuracy, and a fuller Explanation of the Sentiments of his Excellency, I desire Leave to refer you to the inclosed *Spanish* Paper marked (B), with the Translation distinguished by the Letter (C), which includes the Substance of what the Secretary of State first spoke from, then read to me, and afterwards gave into my Hands; consenting to let me send it to *England*, not as a Memorial, but to be considered in the same Light with that Paper which I had agreed to give his Excellency, containing some Notes, to enable him to represent to his Royal Master, with Candour, what I had been ordered to lay a Stress upon;

upon; and this was delivered to me with the same View; a Proof whereof was, that there was no Date to either of our Writings, no Signature, nor any Title prefixed.

At my first Conference, I told General *Wall* I had received the King's Commands to desire his Excellency would, in the present Conjunction, give me a proper Explanation with regard to the Naval Armaments which had been carried on in the various Ports of this Country; and to ask for an explicit Eclaircissement with relation to the Destination of the *Spanish* Fleet; as well as to inform myself particularly, from his Excellency, what were the Dispositions of the Catholick King to maintain Friendship, and to cultivate a good Correspondence with His Majesty; alledging, that this Measure was judged by *England* to be the more absolutely necessary at present, as the *French* Emiffaries, and the Partisans of our Enemies, were attempting, by every Method, to propagate the Belief of an approaching Rupture with *Spain*, in Conjunction with *France*; therefore the King thought himself strongly called upon, from the indispensable Motives of what His Majesty owes to His Crown, and to His People, to expect to have a categorical Answer to the Questions I had put, by His Royal Command. The last Time I saw M. *Wall*, which was the Fifth Meeting we had together, I renewed those Questions, and then received exactly the same Answer which had been given me the first Time; That *Spain* was surprized *Great Britain* should take Umbrage at any Naval Preparations, she was, or had been making since the Accession of his present Catholick Majesty; for, including both the Ships of the Line, as well as the Frigates, the whole Number did not exceed in all that of Twenty; which M. *Wall* assured me were, by several, fewer than those which had been equipped during the Reign of the late King *Ferdinand*. His Excellency told me, that, with regard to their Destination, some were frequently going backwards and forwards between this Kingdom and *Naples*; others were intended to convoy the homeward, or outward-bound Flotas, Assogues, or Register Ships; and the remaining ones were to serve as a Check upon the *Barbary* Corsairs, and to defend their Coasts, or smaller Vessels, from Insults: And in relation to the Third Question, his Catholick Majesty's Disposition and Professions had invariably been the same, and were ever meant to cement and cultivate the Friendship so happily subsisting between our Two Courts.

I hope, Sir, it will be found I have minutely obeyed every Command I have been honoured with from His Majesty. I am but too conscious of the unreasonable, and (I apprehend) tiresome Length of this Dispatch, which, on account of my frequent Interviews with the *Spanish* Minister, and from my unfeigned Zeal for the Service of my Gracious Royal Master, has insensibly led me on to be as particular as it was possible on so interesting a Subject, and in so critical a Conjunction. I wish this Narration had proved a more satisfactory one; yet, when the Stile of General *Wall's* inclosed Paper is compared with that which was given to me last *January*, I hope it will appear there is less Peevishness at present here, than what was so strongly exhibited some Months ago. The strong Avowal of a most intimate Cordiality between *Spain* and *France*,

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contained in this last Production of the *Spanish* Secretary of State's, has hurt me. I could not avoid acquainting his Excellency, that it seemed calculated rather to serve as an Apology for the Proceedings of the Court of *Versailles*, and to be a Justification of the Conduct of the *French* Ministers, than for any other Purpose.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

*Translation of a Paper marked A, inclosed in the Earl of Bristol's Letter of Aug. 31, 1761.*

I.

**M**ONS. *de Bussy* having presented to Mr. *Pitt* a Memorial on the Part of his Court, concerning the Discussions of *Great Britain* with *Spain*; the King my Master ordered his Secretary of State to send back the said Memorial, as totally inadmissible.

II.

It has been told him, that *France* has not had, at any Time, a Right to meddle in our Disputes with the Court of *Madrid*.

III.

Further, that it would be looked upon as offensive to the King's Dignity, and incompatible with the good Faith of the Negotiation, that further Mention should be made of the Differences of our Courts.

IV.

Orders to make Remonstrances on the Conduct of *Spain*, who, whilst she lived in good Correspondence with *England*, and has always declared that Her Intention was, to put an End to our long Disputes by some amicable Arrangement, makes use of such a Voice as that of an Enemy to convey her Grievances to us.

V.

Although the King will never hearken to any Thing on account of an Intimation from a Power at War, threatening an Union of Counsels, and hinting a future War, (perhaps not distant on the Part of *Spain* and *France*); notwithstanding that, His Majesty, from an uniform Conduct, and constantly inclined to give every Satisfaction to his Catholick Majesty, continues ready amicably to terminate every Thing which can occasion the least Coolness between the Two Kingdoms.

VI.

With regard to the Three Articles recited in the Memorial as Grievances of *Spain*; I am ordered to say, First, That the Courts of Justice, established in

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in *England*, to decide Causes relative to the Restitution of Prizes made on the *Spaniards*, or thought to be in violation of the Catholick King's Territory, are always open to all those who bring their Complaints thither; and that the Ministers of the most Christian King are not acknowledged in *England* as a Tribunal, before which *England* will consent that an Appeal be brought.

VII.

As to the Second Article; The first Discovery of the Island of *Newfoundland*, having been proved to have been made at the Expence, and on the Account, of King *Henry VII.* the uninterrupted Possession of that Island, by the Settlements of the Subjects of *England* ever since the said Epoch to this Hour, has also been demonstrated: Further, *Spain* having never made any Settlement there, and the pretended Right of the *Biscayners*, and *Guipuscoans* not being at any Time admitted; the King can never consent to the least Concession on this Article; and flatters himself that *Spain* will never expect, as the Price of an Union so much to be wished for by the Two Nations, a Sacrifice on the Part of *Great Britain*, which can never be agreed to in any Shape.

VIII.

On the Subject of Logwood, which makes the Third Object, His Majesty is constant in His Intentions to cause all the Settlements, contrary to the Territorial Jurisdiction of the Catholick King in *America*, to be evacuated: And will receive with Pleasure any just Overture on the Part of the Court of *Madrid*, (provided that it does not pass through the Channel of the *French* Ministers) for accommodating our Differences, and for putting an End to every Complaint, by finding some Means for granting Logwood to us, without Inconvenience to *Spain*.

*Translation of a Paper delivered to the Earl of Bristol by General Wall, at St. Ildefonso, Aug. 28, 1761. Marked (C).*

**T**HE Memorial which M. *de Bussy* presented to Mr. *Pitt* by Order of his Court, setting forth the Desire the most Christian King had to terminate his Peace with *England*, under the Guaranty of the Catholick King, and that, at the same Time, the Disputes between the Courts of *Madrid* and *London*, might in some Shape be accommodated, is a Step, which his Catholick Majesty will not deny has been taken with his full Consent, Approbation, and Pleasure: However, he will affirm and does affirm to the Court of *Great Britain*, and to the whole World, that his Intention in consenting thereto, as well as in approving of it, was not to offend the Dignity of that Crown, or retard its Peace; on the contrary, to consolidate it, and, in all human Possibility, to perpetuate it. It may have been productive of contrary Effects: For, as most Actions bear different Constructions, this has not received in *London* the same that was put upon it at *Madrid* and *Paris*; and both Courts have been concerned at displeasing the King of *Great Britain*, and indisposing Him from continuing the Negotiations

of a Peace with *France*, and of regulating His Differences with *Spain*, jointly or separately, it is equal to both Monarchs, since they have only Good in view; tho' they will never give up to *England* a Right, which, without Example, it pretends to assume, of hindering the one from interfering in the Affairs of the other, for their mutual Assistance, as their Union, Friendship, and Relationship require.

Thus the End being explained, which the Courts of *Madrid* and *Paris* proposed by the Delivery of the Memorial, the Original Motive will now be explained with the same Sincerity.

There is the greatest Harmony between the Two Courts: And who, in this Age, can be surpris'd there should be that Harmony between the Kings of *Spain* and *France*? His most Christian Majesty has communicated to his Catholick Majesty, in consequence, all the Steps taken to bring about a Peace from the very Beginning of the War. His Catholick Majesty has acquainted his most Christian Majesty, as often as there has been Occasion, with his Affairs at the Court of *London*.

His most Christian Majesty resolv'd to purchase Peace at the dear Price of the Proposals contained in the Plan delivered by the Duke of *Choiseul* to Mr. *Stanley*; and One of the Motives which induced him to so great a Sacrifice was, in order to secure, for many Years, the Peace of his Kingdoms, by satisfying at once the Views of the *English*. And he signify'd, at the same Time, to his Catholick Majesty, his Desire of cutting short those Beginnings of Disagreement between him and His British Majesty, on account of his Grievances with the Court of *London*, with this kind Expression, That, if a Rupture ensued between *England* and *Spain*, *France* will have miscarried in the above Object of her present Sacrifices, as she will be necessitated to assist in defending *Spain*, and involve herself in a new War. Was the Catholick King to despise so generous an Overture? It was not to be expected. Ought *England* to be surpris'd at it? As little. It being ground'd upon this, that if *England* saw that *France* attacked the Dominions of *Spain*, particularly in *America*, she would run immediately to her Defence, for her own Conveniency, as well as because she had, equally with *France*, guarantied them. Well, what was to be done? said the Two Courts, They agreed, that *France* should declare to *England*, That, as she was coming to a Composition with her, she desired that nothing might remain, not even a Mistrust, of returning to a fresh War; and that she should exhort *England* to terminate her Disputes with *Spain* to their mutual Satisfaction, which alone occasioned any Doubt.

Both Courts thought that *France* could not take a Step that shew'd better Faith towards *England*, and there is no Doubt but so it appears; without examining why or wherefore it is thought otherwise at *London*, or in what it offends the Dignity of the *British* Monarch. What proceeding more noble can an Enemy hold with another, than *France* does to *England*, in saying, To conclude a Peace with *England*, I yield up this and that; however, at the same Time I am resolv'd to make this Sacrifice, I cannot but say, I wish to secure

secure a Peace for many Years, and therefore should be glad that *England* would settle with *Spain* their Subjects of Disagreement together, because otherwise they may again entangle me in a fresh War.

Yet *England* finds Reason for remonstrating against the Conduct of *Spain* hereupon; expressing, that, at a Time she is living in good Harmony with *Spain*, and has declared her Desire of terminating her long Differences by some amicable Adjustment; *Spain* makes use of *England*'s Enemy as the Channel of her Grievances. It is repeated in Answer, that *Spain* only consented that *France* should take this Step, in as much as it appeared not only inoffensive, but, on the contrary, to come more from an honest and sincere Friend than an Enemy; and that *Spain* is far from thinking to irritate *England*. She would not have staid to chuse her Time so ill, if Views of Prudence and Moderation had not contain'd her, and above all, the never-lost Hopes of finding Justice in the *British* Court.

How many Proofs has not *Spain* already given, of her aiming to obtain a Redress of her Grievances, without pretending it otherwise than in a friendly Manner? Six Years ago, the *Spanish* Governors being ordered to oppose the Intrusion of Foreigners upon the *American* Coasts, an Expedition was made to dislodge the *English* from some new Establishments; and the Court of *London* having reclaim'd against an offensive Method, which happen'd exactly at the Time she was coming to a Rupture with *France*, from whence it might have been infer'd that *Spain*, in seizing that Conjecture, sought to streighten *England*, (then less powerful, and not so sure of her happy Successes as at present,) the Catholick King commanded, in order to take away all kind of Mistrust from *England*, that those Orders should be superseded; and even to restore to the *English* whatever Effects might have been taken from them; and His *British* Majesty, offer'd to settle these Points in a friendly Manner. During these same Six Years, we have not discontinued to solicit, without advancing One Day more than the other: And during that Time (who would believe it?) the *English* have increased their incroached Establishments upon that Coast.

The King of *Spain* will say, as the King of *England* does, That he will do nothing on account of the Intimation of a hostile Power, who threatens an Union of Councils, and gives to understand a future War; for the Catholick King approves of and esteems, in other Monarchs, those Sentiments of Honour he feels himself; and if he had thought that the Delivery of the Memorial had been construed as an Intimation, and a Threat, he would never have consented to it. Why has not *England* made the Trial of concluding her Peace with *France* without the Guaranty or Intervention of *Spain*, and adjust her Differences with *Spain* without the Knowledge of *France*? and she would have experienced, that their Union was not an Obstruction, but only tended and tends to live in Tranquility, and shake off all Danger with regard to its Permanency. With respect to what concerns *Spain*, it is now repeated, as it has been so many Times before, That as the King of *Great Britain*, notwithstanding the Delivery of the said Memorial, was inclin'd to satisfy the Catholick King, and was ready to terminate, in a friendly Manner, whatever might occasion a Coolness between the



Two Kingdoms; his Catholick Majesty esteems and corresponds most assuredly with such good Purposes. The Difficulty consists in the Terms. Three Articles of Grievances were stated, in the Memorial, by the Court of *Madrid* against that of *London*; which has been answered, but not with more Compliance than any of the former Offices, full of Conviction, from the *Spanish* Ambassador in *England*, have been answered.

With regard to the Claim of the Injuries against the Neutrality in this War, which is one, and about which there is no material Stumbling-block; after other Things, it is said, That *England* can never look upon the Ministers of the most Christian King as a Tribunal to which it will consent to carry an Appeal; and it cannot be imagined to what Purpose. Who ever thought of such an Irregularity? Concerning the Liberty of the *Biscayners* and *Guipuscoans* to fish for Bacallao, an absolute Negative is given to that Right, though it is so well proved: And with respect to evacuating the Establishments, it is only offered upon Terms inadmissible with the Catholick King's Decorum, That before doing it, he should assure to the *English* the Logwood. Hard Proceeding certainly, for one to confess, that he is gone into the House of another to take away his Jewels; and to say, "I will go out again, but first you shall engage to give me what I went to take." And still harder, when set in Opposition with the Bacallao; for the *Spaniards* want that for their Food, as the *English* want the Logwood for their Fabricks: Yet the *English* would by Force take away the Logwood, and hinder by Force the *Spaniards* from taking away the Bacallao. One would think that the *English* themselves ought with Reluctance to produce such a Pretension.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Segovia, Sept. 14, 1761. Received Oct. 5.

S I R,

General Wall has acquainted me that M. Manso, Governor at *Sanroque*, had, in consequence of the Orders transmitted to him, been at *Tariffa*, where (after examining into the Conduct of the Inhabitants at that Place, and reproving those who connived at the Proceedings which occasioned such repeated Complaints from me, concerning the illegal Protection granted to the *French* Row Boats under the Cannon of that Port) he had taken such Measures, as would put an effectual Stop to any farther Remonstrances on that Subject.

The *Spanish* Minister likewise informed me of his having heard, that several additional Works were going forward in order to strengthen the Fortifications at *Gibraltar*; which he said would naturally confirm the Report, too universally spread, of an approaching Rupture between our Courts. His Excellency asked me, Whether *Great Britain* could seriously entertain any Apprehensions of such an Event? and, without giving me Time to answer, added, that the Catholick King

King had at no Time been more intent on cultivating a good Correspondence with His Majesty, than at present.

After so explicit a Declaration of the Sentiments of *Spain* on this very material Point, I thought it incumbent upon me to remove, as far as it lay in my Power, all the Jealousies and Suspicions which I found had arisen from any Workmen being employed at *Gibraltar*. I therefore assured M. Wall of my having no kind of Reason to imagine any Orders had been issued from *England*, to increase the Works of that Fortres; for I had constantly been told that Place was impregnable by Land, of course Money would not be squandered away there unnecessarily; yet, as some of the ancient Forts might want repairing, and as each new Governour would naturally exhibit his Attention and Diligence in the Care of so important a Trust, General *Parflow* might probably be employing some Hands for that Purpose, which was a sufficient Ground for the Intelligence his Excellency had received, as all Reports from distant Provinces were very much magnified before they reached the Capital.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Segovia, Sept. 21, 1761. Received Oct. 16.

S I R,

A Messenger arrived at *St. Ildephonso* last Week, with the News of the safe Arrival of the Flota in the Bay of *Cadix*, but the Particulars of the Cargo on Board are not yet exactly known.

I have been assured that this Court is disappointed, since there is little above 330,000 *l.* brought from *America* upon the Catholick King's Account; which Sum, considering it is the Produce of the Royal Revenue for Two Years, in the *West Indies*, is not considerable, and shews the great Mismanagement that reigns amongst the Assessors and Collectors in those Parts. The Viceroy and Governours endeavour to disculpate themselves, by sending heavy Complaints against their inferior Officers; and these retort the Accusations, by alledging, that those who are set over them to prevent all illegal Practices, are the first and principal People who defraud the King of *Spain* of his Due, by encouraging the contraband Trade upon the Coasts, and conniving at the Introduction of all Kind of Goods, for which they, the Chiefs, receive large Presents; by these Means the Markets and Fairs are glutted with every Kind of Commodity from *Europe* when the Flota arrives from *Old Spain*; so that, from the Magazines being then full, no Vent can be found for the new Merchandize but upon very disadvantageous Terms, which the Factors are compelled to submit to, rather

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than to return hither with the same Goods they carried out. As his Catholick Majesty seems to have the Prosperity of his extensive Dominions so much at Heart, and is conscious how highly requisite it is, for the Welfare of his Subjects in the different Parts of the World, to put his Affairs upon an entire new Regulation; his Ministers do not fail suggesting often to him, the Impracticability of setting about to alter the old defective System of Government that has so long prevailed, if the Court of *Madrid* should embroil itself in the present Troubles of *Europe*, by taking a Part in the War against *Great Britain*.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Segovia, Sept. 28, 1761. Received Oct. 20.

S I R,

**D**ON *Jayme Masones*, late Ambassador from this Court to that of *Versailles*, having obtained Leave to resign his Employment of Director General of the Artillery, has been appointed by the Catholick King One of the Counsellors of State.

*M. Wall* has acquainted me, that, by the freshest Intelligence he has been able to procure from *America*, he has been told, the *English* Settlers upon the Logwood Coast had chiefly been fortifying themselves at *Rio Tinto*, where they had cast up considerable Intrenchments, and had placed several Pieces of Cannon upon the Ramparts. His Excellency added, as that Establishment, together with those near the River *Wallis* and the *Laguna Azul*, were indisputably of a very recent Date, he did not conceive what Difficulty *Great Britain* could alledge for avoiding to evacuate such avowed Usurpations, if the Court of *London* was really sincere in the Professions which had been so repeatedly made to *Spain*, of its Intention to cause all Settlements, contrary to the territorial Jurisdiction of his Catholick Majesty, to be abandoned. General *Wall* has earnestly desired my giving the strongest Assurances at Home, that, if Orders were sent for recalling those *British* Subjects, who are now at *Rio Tinto*, and directing them to withdraw their Cannon from that Place, the King of *Spain* promised, in the amplest Manner, that no kind of Disturbance should be given to any of the Logwood Cutters in whatsoever Parts they were, either on the Coasts of *Campeachy* or of *Honduras*; but that they should be permitted to carry on their Trade unmolested, until an Agreement could be made, and a Convention settled, between their *Britannick* and Catholick Majesties, for the final Adjustment of this long depending Business, to the mutual Satisfaction of our

Two Sovereigns. General *Wall* has ever acted in too ingenuous a Manner, for me to suspect the least Duplicity in his Conduct; and the pressing Instances he made me, on this Occasion, to endeavour to represent the Equity as well as the Expediency of such Orders being transmitted with regard to *Rio Tinto*, leave me no Room to doubt, that this Court only wishes for such a Step, either to treat upon that apparent Equality of its Differences with *England*; or to put a Stop to the repeated Intimations conveyed from *Versailles*, That it would be unbecoming the Dignity of the King of *Spain* to enter into any Negotiation with another Power, who avowedly withheld from his Catholick Majesty several illegal Settlements in his Territories; although the *French* Ministers, in order to render an Accommodation between *England* and *Spain* utterly impracticable, recommend to this Court the Necessity of insisting, that every *Englishman* whatever should withdraw from each Part of the Logwood Coasts, before any Overtures are made for the Regulation of our Commerce with *Spain*; yet *M. Wall* said, that the Catholick King could not give a stronger Proof of his Desire sincerely to put an End to our Disputes, by some amicable Regulation, than exacting only the Relinquishing that Establishment on *Rio Tinto*, which, while it silenced the Clamours of our Enemies, would also facilitate this Court's coming to a speedy Adjustment with *England*; for all that was requested from us was, to make known to the World our own good Faith, at the same Time that it would serve as a Salvo to the *Spaniards Pundonor* for entering into a Negotiation, after having so often insisted on the Evacuation of the Catholick King's Dominions in the *West Indies*.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Segovia, October 5, 1761. Received October the 27th.

S I R,

**I** Received, by the last Post, the Honour of your Dispatch of the 11th past, acquainting me, that His Majesty's Marriage with the Princess *Charlotte* of *Mecklenbourg Strelitz*, was happily celebrated the 8th of last Month; on which joyful Event I offer you my sincere Congratulations, as I can judge of the great Satisfaction all the King's faithful Subjects must feel, by what I now experience within myself.

As you transmitted to me the King's Letters of Notification, on this Occasion, to his Catholick Majesty, and to the Queen Dowager of *Spain*, I went Yesterday to *St. Ildephonso*, and presented His Majesty's Letter, in the accustomed Manner, to the Catholick King; who enjoined me very particularly, to assure His Majesty

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Majesty of the sincere Share he should ever take in all Events that contributed to the King's Happiness. To-morrow I intend returning to the Palace, in order to deliver to the Queen Dowager the Letter addressed to her Majesty, as I have already acquainted the Camarera Major with my having been honoured with the King's Commands for that Purpose. *M. Wall* has informed me, that the Hopes of Peace now seem more remote than ever, as *M. Stanley* and *M. Buffy* were shortly to return to their respective Courts. His Excellency expressed a thorough Concern at the breaking off these Conferences; and said, it was the Opinion in *Spain*, the *French* Ministers had gone as great Lengths in Concessions as could be expected, considering the Engagements of *France* with her Allies. That if *Great Britain* was so laudably strenuous for the Support of the King of *Prussia*, it was equally reasonable to imagine, the Court of *France* would never consent to desert the Empress Queen; and the being allowed only to succour her Imperial Majesty with 24,000 Men, while *England* reserved to itself the Power of assisting his *Prussian* Majesty efficaciously, was almost equivalent to abandoning the House of *Austria*.

I am, &amp;c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a most secret Letter from the Earl of Egremont, to the Earl of Bristol, dated October 28, 1761.

My LORD,

IN opening my Correspondence with your Excellency, it gives me great Pleasure to be able to inform you, that your Letter of the Fourteenth past, wherein you mention, "That *M. Wall* has acquainted you that the Catholick King had, at no Time, been more Intent on cultivating a good Correspondence with His Majesty, than at present", having been laid before the King, His Majesty received, with particular Satisfaction, such an authentick Declaration of the good Intentions of his Catholick Majesty; and the King highly approves of the Assurances your Excellency gave, in return, to the *Spanish* Minister, with regard to additional Works at *Gibraltar*: And it is with great Pleasure I can assure your Excellency, that having made proper Enquiry into that Matter, I find no Orders whatsoever have been issued with regard to those Fortifications; and therefore nothing can have been done there, but the usual and necessary Repairs.

I am also to inform your Excellency, that the Confirmation of the same good Dispositions in the Court of *Spain*, manifested by *M. Wall*'s expressing (as reported in your Dispatch of the 28th past) their Readiness to come to a speedy Adjustment with *England*, upon our evacuating the most recent Settlements on the Coast of *Honduras*, only to serve as a *Salvo* to the *Spaniards*

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*niards Pundonor*, was considered, by His Majesty, as a happy Prefage of a speedy and amicable Conclusion of all Disputes subsisting between the Two Crowns.

It is judged highly expedient for the King's Service, that the Court of *Spain* should, in the present Moment, be apprized of the Sentiments of that of *Great Britain*. I am therefore to acquaint your Excellency, that His Majesty continues to have nothing more at Heart, than to cultivate the most cordial Friendship with his Catholick Majesty; trusting, however, to find this Disposition reciprocal on the Part of *Spain*. Nothing being more evident, than the mutual Advantage which must arise to both Courts from a State of Union and Amity; and perhaps Experience has shewn, that when, in Contradiction to the obvious Principles of our common Interests, that Harmony has been unhappily interrupted, *Spain* has always been the greatest Sufferer.

These being the King's Sentiments, His Majesty cannot imagine that the Court of *Spain* should think it unreasonable, to desire a Communication of the Treaty acknowledged to have been lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*, or of such Articles thereof as can, by particular and explicit Engagements, immediately relate to the Interests of *Great Britain*, or, in a more general and distant View of Affairs, be any ways construed to affect the same in the present Conjunction, before He enters into farther Negotiation on the Points depending between the Two Crowns; which the King conceives may be soon amicably accommodated, if his Catholick Majesty means to bring the same Facility on his Part, as His Majesty is determined to shew on His, towards the speedy Adjustment of that, which seems now to remain the Principal, if not only Matter in Dispute: For tho' the King, from His Confidence in the repeated Assurances of Friendship from his Catholick Majesty, is unwilling to suppose that a Treaty, concluded by him, can contain any Thing to the Prejudice of *Great Britain*; yet as the Court of *France* has affected to give out that *Spain* was on the Point of entering into the War; which Language has been industriously propagated, and generally with Success, in most Courts of *Europe*; His Majesty therefore thinks, that the Honour of His Crown, and the Interests of His People, equally call for an Explanation with regard to this already too much credited Report, before He can, consistent with His own Dignity, proceed in any Negotiation with *Spain*: Nor can any fair or candid Discussion of the Rights or Differences of the Two Courts take Place upon a just and equitable Footing, should *Spain*, while she is fully informed of the Extent of all His Majesty's Alliances and Connections, maintain a suspicious and unfriendly Reserve, with regard to a Treaty recently concluded between her and His Majesty's declared and inveterate Enemy; by whom it is openly and industriously asserted, throughout *Europe*, that the Purport thereof is hostile to *Great Britain*.

I am,

I am here to inform your Excellency, that, in my first Conference with the Count *de Fuentes*, I explained this Matter fully, but his Excellency avoided entering into it, and seemed to wish that it might be passed through another Channel; disclaiming, however, in the strongest Manner, any unfriendly Intentions of his Court. It is therefore the King's Pleasure, that your Excellency should use the most pressing Instances to *M. Wall*, to obtain such Communication as is above mentioned; and it is hoped, that you will easily convince a Minister so thoroughly acquainted with the Nature and Constitution of this Country, of the Importance of this Test of Friendship, to the Support of that desirable Harmony between the Two Courts; and how much a Refusal to give due Satisfaction on this Head, would impede and obstruct His Majesty's best Intentions towards that valuable Object. It is needless to recommend to your Excellency, to urge this Matter in the most polite and friendly Terms; gently insinuating the above Arguments, to shew, that His Majesty ought to be satisfied as to this Matter, before he proceeds to other Points: But on the other Hand, your Excellency will give the *Spanish* Minister the strongest Assurances, that, this Obstacle once removed, His Majesty is most sincerely and cordially disposed to enter into an amicable Discussion of other Matters in Dispute; little doubting, but that a confirmed reciprocal Confidence would naturally point out Expedients to save the Honour of both Kings, adjust Things to mutual Satisfaction, and establish a Harmony, as permanent as advantageous to both Courts. Nor can I more explicitly enforce the King's real Sentiments on this Head, than by referring your Excellency to your own Dispatches, wherein you have repeatedly made the most conciliating Overtures, particularly in that of the 31st of *August* last, which I cannot more properly express, than in your your Excellency's own Words, as follows, "Concerning the Disputes about the Coast of *Honduras*, I could add nothing to the repeated Declarations I had made in the King's Name, of the Satisfaction with which His Majesty would receive any just Overture from *Spain* (upon Condition that *France* was not to be the Channel of that Conveyance) for terminating amicably, and to mutual Satisfaction, every reasonable Complaint on this Matter, by proposing some equitable Regulation for securing to us the long-enjoyed Privilege of cutting Logwood (an Indulgence confirmed by Treaty, and of course authorized in the most sacred Manner) nor could I give stronger Assurances than the past, of His Majesty's steady Purpose to cause all Establishments on the Logwood Coasts, contrary to the Territorial Jurisdiction of *Spain*, to be removed;" and should your Excellency see the proper Moment for renewing Declarations of the same Sort, I am to assure your Excellency of His Majesty's Approbation therein.

In order to prevent any perverse Impressions, which Mr. *Pitt's* retiring from publick Business, at this Juncture, might Occasion, it is proper that I should assure your Excellency, that the Measures of Government will suffer no Relaxation on that Account; on the contrary, I may venture to promise, that the Idea suggested

gested by some malevolent Persons at Home, and perhaps industriously propagated Abroad, of the whole Spirit of the War subsiding with him, instead of discouraging, will only tend to animate the present Ministry to a more vigorous Exertion of their Powers, to avoid every possible Imputation of Indecision or Indolence, which ignorant Prejudice might suggest: And the Example of the Spirit of the late Measures, will be a Spur to His Majesty's Servants to persevere, and to stretch every Nerve of this Country, towards forcing the Enemy to come into a safe, honourable, and, above all, a lasting Peace. I further have the Pleasure to inform your Excellency, that the most perfect Harmony, mutual Confidence and Unanimity, now reign in His Majesty's Councils; with a thorough Determination to push the War with such Vigour, as will, it is hoped, under the Hand of Providence, procure still farther Successes to the just Cause for which this Country drew the Sword. The King at the same Time continues to be disposed, with equal Moderation, to put an End to the dreadful Calamities of War, the Moment the Enemy will listen to such Terms of Peace as shall be consistent with His Majesty's Honour, in some Degree adequate to the Successes of His Arms, and calculated, by promising Permanency, to preserve Mankind from the various Distresses and Miseries, which have been so fatally experienced during the Course of this cruel and bloody War.

I am, &c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol, dated Oct. 28, 1761. Secret and Confidential.

My LORD,

I AM to acquaint your Excellency, that His Majesty does not think proper to confine you, as to the Mode of opening yourself to *M. Wall*, on the important Subject of this Dispatch; or to prescribe whether you are to communicate the Substance of it verbally, or to trust the Whole, or any Part thereof, out of your Hands: Your Excellency's Experience of that Minister will, no doubt, suggest to you the Degree of Compliment and Confidence which is most likely to succeed, and which is, for that Reason, entirely left to your Discretion.

I am further to inform your Excellency, for your private Direction, That, in case you should find insuperable Objections to such a Communication as is expected in my most secret Letter of this Date, and that, in lieu thereof, it should be proposed to give His Majesty solemn Assurances of the Innocence of the Treaty in question with respect to the King's Interests; in such Case, your Excellency is not totally to reject the Alternative, but to take it

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*ad referendum* to be transmitted to your Court: Provided always, That the said Assurances be given upon his Catholick Majesty's Royal Word, signified in Writing, either by the *Spanish* Secretary of State to your Excellency, or by the Conde *de Fuentes* to the King's Secretary of State here, and not otherwise.

I am, &amp;c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol, dated October 28, 1761. *Separate and secret.*

My LORD,

I Reserve for this separate and secret Letter the King's Commands, that your Excellency should pay the most particular Attention to what is passing, at this critical Conjunction, at the Court where you reside; it being highly important to His Majesty's Service, that you should not only use your utmost Endeavours to penetrate, as far as you can, into his Catholick Majesty's real Views, as well as into the prevailing Temper and Sentiments of his principal Ministers, but that you should observe, with a watchful Eye, every new Order or Regulation relative to their Sea and Land Forces, or to their Credit and Finances, as far as the same shall appear to your Excellency to indicate the least Disposition in the Court of *Spain* to depart, in any Shape, from their Neutrality, either by openly or secretly assisting His Majesty's Enemies.

The King's thorough Reliance on your experienced Zeal for His Service, makes it unnecessary to recommend Vigilance on this Occasion. I am therefore only to add, that your Excellency, in the diligent Prosecution of this Object, will most cautiously avoid the least Mark of offensive Diffidence, which might, in any Degree, tend to interrupt those friendly Dispositions, which His Majesty sincerely wishes to cultivate and improve.

I am, &amp;c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to Mr. Secretary Pitt, dated Escorial October 12, 1761. *Received November the 8th.*

SIR,

I Delivered the King's Letter, notifying His Majesty's Marriage, to the Queen Mother at *St. Ildephonso*; who desired me not to fail acquainting the King, how much her Majesty interested herself in every Event, where the King's Happiness was concerned.

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The Court left *Old Castille* on the 7th Instant, and arrived the same Day here.

General *Parflow* having sent me an Answer to a Letter I wrote to him, enquiring whether there were any Grounds for those Reports *M. Wall* had mentioned to me, concerning some additional Works carrying on at *Gibraltar*, and having acquainted me with what was going forward, which consisted only in some necessary Repairs and Conveniencies for the Garrison, I read the whole Letter to General *Wall*; desiring him to acquaint his Catholick Majesty with that very authentic Contradiction of what had been maliciously conveyed to this Court: Assuring his Excellency at the same Time, that *Spain* need have no Suspicion of *England's* not trusting to the repeated Declarations, he (*M. Wall*) had made to me, of the pacific Disposition of the King his Master; for I had constantly and explicitly given an Account of those Professions in my Dispatches, which corresponded with the Sentiments and Inclinations of *Great Britain*, to maintain a perfect Harmony and thorough Union between the Two Kingdoms, in *Europe* as well as in *America*.

I am, &amp;c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Escorial, Nov. 2, 1761. *Received Nov. 14.*

My LORD,

THE surprizing Change I have of late perceived in General *Wall's* Disposition, and the unlooked for Alteration of that Minister's Sentiments, with regard to the present Situation of this Country, has determined me to dispatch the Messenger *Potter* to *England*, that your Lordship may be thoroughly informed of the haughty Language now held by this Court; so different from all the former Professions made to me by the Catholick King's Commands, and so diametrically opposite to the most solemn and repeated Declarations I had received from the *Spanish* Secretary of State, of a thorough Resolution to maintain a perfect Harmony and good Correspondence between the Two Kingdoms, so requisite for their mutual Interest and reciprocal Felicity.

Such strong Reports of an approaching Rupture between *Great Britain* and *Spain*, grounded upon several authentick Assurances I had received, that some Agreement had been settled and signed between their Catholick and most Christian Majesties, determined me to enquire minutely into this Affair; and therefore, I took an Opportunity of mentioning to *M. Wall*, that notwithstanding the frequent, and even late Declarations he had made to me, concerning the pacifick Inclinations of *Spain*, yet I could not conceal the Uneasiness it gave me, to hear from all Parts, both within these Kingdoms, and from other

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Countries,

Countries, that a Treaty had not long since been concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*, and therefore I desired his Excellency would satisfy my Doubts, by informing me, whether there was any Ground for these Rumours; and, in case it were possible, after all that had passed between us, for such a Convention as was hinted at, to have been concluded; then I hoped to be told of what Nature this Treaty was, whether Offensive or singly Defensive, what were the principal Conditions contained in it, and with what Views this sudden and close Union between *Spain* and *France* had been calculated: For I could neither hear such Reports with Indifference, nor give Credit to the Truth of them, without an explicit Avowal thereof from his Excellency's Mouth.

Instead of answering me directly, General *Wall* began, by saying, that the King his Master had Reason to think the Conduct of *England* unwarrantable; for his Catholick Majesty never could obtain an Answer from the *British* Ministry, to any Memorial or Paper that was sent from hence, either by the Channel of the Count of *Fuentes*, or through my Hands: He told me, we were intoxicated with all our Successes, and a continued Series of Victories had elated us so far, as to induce us to condemn the reasonable Concessions *France* had consented to make to us for a Peace; but that it was evident, by our Refusal of the Duc de *Choiseul's* Proposals, all we aimed at was, first, to ruin the *French* Power, in order more easily to crush *Spain*, to drive all the Subjects of the Christian King, not only from their Island Colonies in the new World, but also to destroy their several Forts and Settlements upon the Continent of *North America*, to have an easier Task in seizing on all the *Spanish* Dominions in those Parts, thereby to satisfy the utmost of our Ambition, and to gratify our unbounded Thirst of Conquest.

After M. *Wall* had worked up his Anger to a Height I had never before seen, he then said, with uncommon Warmth, That he would himself be the Man to advise the King of *Spain*, since his Dominions were to be overwhelmed, at least to have them seized with Arms in his Subjects Hands, and not to continue the passive Victim he had hitherto appeared to be in the Eyes of the World. I attended to this Discourse, without interrupting the Thread of it; and, at the Conclusion of it, I desired, with the utmost Serenity, of General *Wall*, to give me an Answer to the Questions I had first started, and we would afterwards proceed to discuss what his Excellency had been expatiating upon. But the *Spanish* Minister only renewed some of his former Exclamations, by insisting, that we had set the *Spanish* Power at Defiance during this War; that we had attacked and plundered their Vessels, insulted their Coasts, violated the Neutrality of these Kingdoms, encroached upon the Territorial Jurisdiction of his Catholick Majesty's Dominions in *America*, by fortifying ourselves in an illegal Manner in the Bay of *Campeachy* and the Gulf of *Honduras*, erecting fresh Settlements, and seizing on Logwood in a most arbitrary Manner, besides denying the *Spaniards* a Right, they had so long claimed, to fish upon the Banks of *Newfoundland*; nay, even wanting to put the *Biscayners* and *Guipuscoans* on

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a worse Footing at present, with regard to their Pretensions to the *Bacallao* Trade, than they had been by the Treaties of *Utrecht* and that of 1721, where the Article in relation to them was, That those *Spaniards* should enjoy *quæ Jure sibi vindicare poterunt*: Whereas all my Instructions had run to declare their Claim to be stale and inadmissible, and finally, to assert that *England* hoped the Catholick King would never expect this Sacrifice as the Price of a Union, which could never be consented to on those Terms.

General *Wall* went on, by saying, He perceived he had in vain given Hopes to his Royal Master, that a proper Attention would be paid to the *Spanish* Demands, and Justice be granted to atone for the repeated Grievances of his Catholick Majesty's Subjects; yet he wanted to know where, when, and how, it was to be expected, since we shewed no Regard to this Country, which had hitherto withstood all the advantageous Offers made by *France* to enter into the present War.

Notwithstanding this Second Digression of his Excellency's, I did not desist from my Point, but renewed my former Questions, by alledging, that the Business I came about, was to receive some explicit Answer to what I had before enquired after. At last, General *Wall* replied, he had no Orders to acquaint me with any Measures but what he had formerly communicated to me, and signified his not being at Liberty to say any more; but said, M. de *Fuentes* had wrote Word, in his Letter of the 2d past, that a Courier was to be sent to me, and whenever the Contents of those Dispatches were communicated to him (M. *Wall*) then I should be acquainted with the Resolutions of *Spain*; for his Catholick Majesty did not doubt of my receiving Instructions relative to the *Spanish* Paper I had transmitted in my Letter of the 31st of *August*.

It was evident, by the Disposition the Secretary of State was in during this whole Conference, that I should at that Time gain no Ground by any farther Enquiries into what I wanted to be instructed in. I therefore broke off here; and after having paid my Court, as usual, with the rest of the Ambassadors, to his Catholick Majesty, I returned in about an Hour to the Office, under Pretence of shewing an Attention I always pay to General *Wall*, when I intend sending off a Messenger, which was, to desire his Excellency would honour me with any Commands he might have for *England*, either of a publick or a private Nature. As our Conversation in general had been too interesting (whilst a Part of it was so mysterious) for me not to send Home an exact Account of all that had passed, by a safe Conveyance; I let this drop, in order to renew the former Topick, and, by so doing, endeavour to procure a little more Insight into this obscure Business.

The *Spanish* Minister began in his former Strain, but multiplied the Appearance of this Country's Grievances; talked of its being Time to open their Eyes, and not to suffer a Neighbour, an Ally, a Parent, and a Friend, any longer to run the Risque of receiving such rigid Laws, as were prescribed by an insulting Victor: His Excellency told me, the Court of *Versailles*, after having communicated to the Catholick King, every the most minute Step taken,

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during Mr. Stanley's Negotiations at Paris, and M. de Buffly's Conferences at London, had determined to publish to the whole World, the mortifying Terms France had brought itself to submit to for the sake of Peace; and to make known the arbitrary unreasonable Demands of England, which frustrated the good Intentions of the most Christian King, whose Humanity had made him consent to put an End to the War, even at the dear Price of yielding so much as he had brought himself to agree to, in order, if possible, to satisfy the Ambition of Great Britain.

I thought I had sufficiently listened to all these Accusations, and that a longer Silence would be reproachful. I must confess, the Allegations mentioned by M. Wall in the first Conference, were so unexpected to me, on account of their differing so widely from all prior Conversations on those Subjects, that I thought it more prudent then, only to attend to what his Excellency asserted, and afterwards, by a short Absence from his Closet, endeavour to recollect the Substance of what had been advanced, that I might be the better enabled to answer, tho', I feared, not to convince, the Spanish Minister.

I began, by expressing my Surprize, that, when I came to be informed of a Step so publickly discoursed of in the World, I could not obtain the Satisfaction I solicited from one, who alone could clear my Doubts, and solve my Questions: That all I had been able to find out was, that it seemed determined to keep me in the Dark; and, in order to divert my Attention from the single Point I wanted to be instructed in, I had only heard a complicated Heap of Grievances, flung out with a View to deter me from persevering in the Pursuit of getting my Curiosity satisfied. Upon that I went methodically through the various Subjects that had been started by the Spanish Secretary of State, insisting on the first Discovery, and a continued Possession of the Newfoundland Fishery, by the King's Subjects; whereas the Spaniards had never brought any Proofs to back their own Assertions to a Claim to that Fishery, whilst we had clearly deduced our Right from the Time of Henry VII.

With regard to the Logwood Trade, a constant Enjoyment of it for about a Century, confirmed to us by Treaties, under the Denominations of an Indulgence or Sufferance, made it a legal Commodity: But as to all usurped Settlements, I had often been ordered to declare the King's Readiness to have them evacuated, when an equitable Regulation was settled, between the Two Courts, for our quiet Possession of that valuable Branch of Commerce.

Then, as to the several Complaints of Breaches of Neutrality, pretended Confiscations of Goods, unlawful Seizures of Spanish Vessels, and all the various blended Grievances I had heard of; I could only answer, in general, that our Courts of Law were open to all Complainants, and tho' Parties might go from thence dissatisfied, yet the Justice of those Courts of Judicature had never been impeached.

In relation to England's Views, of forcing our Enemies to agree to such Terms, as we thought might insure our Nation from the Apprehensions of a future War; I desired to know, what Instance there was of any Country's not endeavouring

endeavouring to obtain the most advantageous Conditions for itself at a Peace, especially when Providence had vouchsafed to bless a righteous Cause with Success: This was the Case of Great Britain; we were bound by strong Engagements to support our Allies, and insisted on being at Liberty to fulfil those Engagements according to the Extent of them; whilst we determined to settle our Empire in America upon such a Footing, as should free our Colonies there from Encroachments, and not leave them to be liable to a Repetition of such Chicanes from the French, as had caused the Beginning of those Disturbances, which had afterwards extended themselves into Europe.

This was the Sum of my Discourse; and when I recurred to my repeated Instances for Information concerning the Treaty, all that I could, with Difficulty, extort from General Wall, was, that his Catholick Majesty had judged it expedient to renew his Family Compacts (those were the express Words) with the most Christian King. I begged to know when those Compacts had first been agreed upon; and at what Time, whether very lately, or some Months ago, they had received a fresh Sanction. Here the Spanish Minister stopt short, and, as if he had gone beyond what he intended, he said, that the Count de Fuentes and M. Buffly had declared to His Majesty's Ministers all that was meant to be communicated to them; and altho' I continued in the Closet some short Time after that Declaration, as I found I was to expect nothing but a Repetition of the same Answer to every Question I put, I determined to retire.

This, my Lord, is the Result of my Enquiries, and here the Business rests at present.

Two Ships have lately arrived at Cadiz, with very extraordinary rich Cargoes, from the West Indies; so that all the Wealth that was expected from Spanish America, is now safe in Old Spain: Perhaps this Circumstance has raised the Language of the Catholick King's Ministers, added to the Progress which, we hear, the French Army is making in the King's Electoral Dominions, and the Success that has attended the Austrian Operations in Silesia. I have long observed the Jealousy of Spain at the British Conquests; and am now convinced, that the Consciousness of this Country's Naval Inferiority, has occasioned the soothing Declarations, so repeatedly made, of a Desire to maintain Harmony and Friendship with England: But the French have never discontinued their Flatteries, whilst they solicited a Junction of Forces, assuring the Spaniards, that even the Signing of an Alliance between their Sovereigns, would intimidate our Court, not only upon account of our being exhausted by the present long and expensive War, but by our having felt the fatal Consequences of an Interruption of our Spanish Trade, during the last War.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

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Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol,  
dated November 19th, 1761.

My LORD,

ON the 14th Instant, I received the Honour of your Excellency's most important and interesting Dispatch of the 2d, by *Potter*, and laid the same immediately before the King.

The Surprise which your Excellency expresses, at the unlooked for and sudden Change of Sentiments and Discourse of *M. Wall*, could not have exceeded His Majesty's Astonishment at the Contrast, as striking as unaccountable, which your Excellency's Dispatches of the 14th and 28th of *September*, compared with that of the 2d Instant, exhibit; and when His Majesty observes the very different and contradictory Tenor of the above-mentioned several Letters, the abrupt and unprovoked Transition in the *Spanish* Secretary of State, from the most cordial and conciliatory Tone of friendly Profession and amicable Adjustment, to the most peremptory and haughty Stile of Menace and Hostility, cannot but put His Majesty's Moderation to the severest Trial. It must also add to your Excellency's, as it has to my, Animadversion, on the Incoherency of this Behaviour, when I inform you, that the several Conversations I have had with the Count *de Fuentes*, have been all of the most amicable Kind; and the very Day before your Excellency's Messenger arrived, the *Spanish* Ambassador, coming out of His Majesty's Closet, from an Audience, to which he had been admitted to deliver a Letter from His Catholick Majesty on occasion of the King's Marriage, took me aside, to repeat to me the strong Assurances he had just had the Honour of giving His Majesty, of the friendly Disposition of the King his Master, and of his steady Purpose to maintain the strictest Amity with the Court of *Great Britain*.

The King, however, religiously true to His solemn and sincere Declarations to his Catholick Majesty, and, at the same Time, not less attentive to the Dignity of His Crown, and the real Interests of His People, is calmly and resolutely determined punctually to discharge those indispensable Duties, with a Coolness, which no Provocation can disturb, and a Firmness, which no Menace can intimidate.

In this fixed Disposition of Mind, His Majesty directs me to lose no Time in re-dispatching your Excellency's Messenger, (with His Majesty's Sentiments on a Point which so highly concerns the Honour and Interest of both Crowns.

Tho' my Dispatch of the 28th past, will have already given your Excellency the Satisfaction of seeing, how intirely consistent with His Majesty's Ideas, the Steps you have taken have been; yet, I must, in Obedience to the King's Commands, assure you, that your Conduct on this Occasion has met with His most Gracious Approbation.

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It would be both tedious, and useless, to enter minutely into the Answers so obvious to be given to the offensive Digressions, by which *M. Wall* determinately evaded giving any Satisfaction to your Excellency's most reasonable Demand, with regard to the Treaty lately concluded with *France*. I shall therefore content myself with very few Observations in the Order of your Dispatch.

As to the Assertion of that Minister, "That his Catholick Majesty never could obtain an Answer from the *British* Ministry, to any Memorial or Paper that was sent from *Spain*, either by the Channel of the Count *de Fuentes*, or thro' your Hands;" it would be a useless Condescension to appeal so repeatedly to those ample Materials in your Excellency's Possession, for the Confutation of a Proposition so notoriously groundless, that it scarce deserves a serious Answer.

The Language *M. Wall* held, relative to the late Negotiation with *France*, as well as with regard to our Ambition and unbounded Thirst of Conquest, as it consists of meer abusive Assertion, without the least Shew of Argument, deserves nothing but plain Contradiction.

His Majesty read, with particular Concern, the intemperate and rash Advice which that Minister talked of proposing to the King his Master, grounded upon meer chimerical Suppositions of intended Hostilities against *Spain*, which do the highest Injustice to the Purity and Integrity of His Majesty's Intentions: And *M. Wall* must himself know, that there has been a particular Delicacy observed, in concerting our Plans for Military Operations, to avoid carrying Hostilities towards Objects, which might give the least Jealousy or Umbrage to the Court of *Spain*; and therefore, His Majesty can only consider such unjust Suggestions and groundless Suspicions, as destitute of Probability, as of Proof, as a meer Pretext, in case, that, contrary to all good Faith, and the most solemn repeated Professions of friendly Intentions, the Court of *Spain* should have meditated or resolved on Hostilities against *England*: Which as, on the one hand, His Majesty will, with His usual Moderation, endeavour to prevent, by all Means consistent with His own Dignity, and that of the Nation; so, on the other, he will, with the utmost Firmness and Resolution, strenuously repel, with that Vigour which becomes a Monarch conscious of being attacked without Cause or Provocation, and zealous at all Times to assert and vindicate the Honour of His Crown, and the Rights of His Subjects.

The Patience and Calmness with which your Excellency listened to what must have been so painful to hear, as the vague Declamation with which the *Spanish* Secretary eluded, for the second Time, returning any Answer to the Question you so properly persevered in urging to him; and your having still returned to the Charge, after an Interval of an Hour, without any Effect, except the dry unsatisfactory telling you, That the Count *de Fuentes* and *M. Bussy* "had declared to His Majesty's Ministers all that was meant to be communicated to them;" has so unpromising an Aspect, as to give the King very little Reason to hope for good Effects from further Patience and Forbearance: And so unsatisfactory a Result of your Excellency's Inquiries, reduces His Majesty to the disagreeable



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disagreeable Necessity of demanding a precise and categorical Answer from the Court of *Madrid*, relative to their Intention with regard to *Great Britain* in this critical Conjunction; and therefore, it is His Majesty's express Command, that your Excellency, making such Use of this Dispatch, as you shall judge proper, do, without Loss of Time, demand of the *Spanish* Secretary of State, in His Majesty's Name, an immediate, clear, and categorical Answer to that Question; and that you do assure *M. Wall*, with becoming Firmness, and in the most explicit Terms, that any Procrastination, Ambiguity, or Evasion, will be considered as ample and sufficient Grounds, for authorizing His Majesty to take such Steps as His Royal Wisdom shall dictate, for the Honour and Dignity of His Crown, and for the Protection and Security of His People. At the same Time that your Excellency cannot be too firm and explicit upon this Question, you will be particularly cautious, not to use the least Harshness in your Manner, or mix any thing in your Conversation with the *Spanish* Minister, which can have the least Tendency to indispose or irritate him. Nothing would more essentially contribute to His Majesty's real Satisfaction, than your Excellency's bringing back that Court to a dispassionate and reasonable Way of Thinking; and your procuring such an Answer, as might justify His Majesty's Continuation of the same friendly and amicable Intercourse, which is not more the Interest of both Countries, than His Majesty's sincere Desire. Various are the Proofs that could be given of this Disposition of His Majesty: Notorious it is to all *Europe*, that, in His Majesty's Councils, every Thing which might indicate a Tendency to break through that good Understanding between the two Courts, which He is so anxious to maintain, has been cautiously avoided. Happy, if such Measures, properly attributed to the Rectitude of His Royal Mind, should contribute towards the salutary Effects which His Moderation thereby proposed: But should, on the contrary, a false and injurious Interpretation, construe into Timidity, His Majesty's Desire of maintaining Peace with *Spain*, provided that Desire was reciprocal on the Part of the Catholick King; and should a Rupture ensue, after every becoming Facility given on the Part of *Great Britain*; His Majesty will, at least, have the Consolation to reflect, that, whatever the Consequences may be, he can appeal to all the World for the Rectitude and Purity of His Intentions; and for the Moderation he has observed, in endeavouring to prevent so great a Calamity, by every Step which His Honour and Dignity could permit.

I am, &amp;c.

EGREMONT.

Copy

[ 33 ]

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol,  
dated Nov. 19, 1761. Most Secret.

My LORD,

HAVING, in my publick Letter of this Date, signified to your Excellency the King's Pleasure, with regard to your Letter of the 2d Instant, by *Potter*; I have it further in Command from His Majesty, to acquaint your Excellency, for your particular Government in a Matter of so much Importance, that, if the Court of *Spain* should have refused to give your Excellency the Satisfaction required in my most Secret Letter of the 28th past, or the Alternative, which, by my secret and confidential Letter of the same Date, your Excellency was permitted to take *ad referendum*; or that, having demanded the categorical Answer required of *M. Wall* in my Letter of this Day's Date, he should, either in direct Terms, or by Implication, acknowledge having entered into any Agreement with, or entertaining any Intention of joining, the *French* in this War, or of acting hostilely towards the King, or any ways departing from their Neutrality; it is the King's Pleasure, That, in any of those Cases, your Excellency do forthwith come away from *Madrid* without taking Leave, and repair with all convenient Speed to *Lisbon*, where you will find a Ship of War ready to receive your Excellency, and to sail with you to *England*: And you are to signify to the *Spanish* Minister, that either a peremptory Refusal of giving any Satisfaction, or of disavowing any Intentions to take Part with our declared and inveterate Enemies in the present War, cannot be looked upon by His Majesty in any Light, but as an Aggression on the Part of *Spain*, and as an absolute Declaration of War.

I am, &amp;c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol,  
dated November 19th, 1761. Separate and Secret.

My LORD,

I Am commanded by the King to acquaint your Excellency, that, in case you shall have sufficient Reason to conclude, from the Observations which you shall have made, from the Time of your dispatching *Potter* to that of his Return, that there are little or no Hopes of such an Answer as your Excellency is ordered to demand from the *Spanish* Minister, you will, in that Case, take the most private and most expeditious Manner that the Thing will admit of, to give immediate Notice of the critical Situation in which

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we stand with regard to *Spain*, to Major General *Parflow* at *Gibraltar*, and to all His Majesty's Consuls in *Spain* and *Portugal*, in order that they may put themselves, and His Majesty's Trading Subjects, properly on their Guard against whatever may happen; and your Excellency will also take the proper Means to make the same Communication to Sir *Charles Saunders*. But when your Excellency shall find your Departure from *Madrid* inevitable, and that, in conformity to His Majesty's Commands, signified by the several Letters of this Dispatch, you must immediately set out for *Lisbon*; in such Case, you are, without Loss of Time, to send off, in the most secure, secret, and expeditious Manner, a Letter to Admiral *Saunders*, and another to Commodore *Keppel*, acquainting each of those Officers that you have taken your final Resolutions to leave the Court of *Madrid*. Your Letter to Admiral *Saunders* you will convey through Major General *Parflow*, to be forwarded with the utmost Expedition to the Admiral; sending, at the same Time, a Duplicate to Mr. *Hay* at *Lisbon*, to be dispatched by a Frigate which the Lords of the Admiralty have ordered there for that Purpose: And your Excellency's Letter to Commodore *Keppel* you will also transmit to Mr. *Hay*, to be by him forwarded by another Frigate which is ordered to *Lisbon*.

As it is of the utmost Importance to His Majesty's Service, that the Notification of your Excellency's final Resolution to leave *Madrid*, should not only be made the Moment such Resolutions are taken by your Excellency, but that they should reach Admiral *Saunders* by the quickest and securest Conveyance possible; it is the King's express Command, that, should your Excellency have the least Reason to suspect, that the Messenger or Person whom you shall employ to carry such Notification to *Gibraltar* or *Lisbon*, may be intercepted or stopped, in that Case, your Excellency will immediately set out yourself for the Frontiers of *Portugal*, and from thence you will dispatch to Mr. *Hay* your Letters, as well for Admiral *Saunders*, as Commodore *Keppel*, to be forwarded by that Minister, as above; and your Excellency will leave such Person at *Madrid* as you shall think proper, to take Care of your private Affairs there, which must necessarily be left in some Confusion by your strict Compliance with His Majesty's Commands on this Head.

I shall only add, that a very exact Execution of the King's Commands, signified in this Letter, being of the utmost Importance to His Majesty's Service, it is expected, that your Excellency will pay a most particular Attention to them.

I am, &c.

EGREMONT.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Escorial, Nov. 9, 1761. Received Dec. 3.

My LORD,

Accounts have lately been transmitted to me, from several Ports of *Spain*, in relation to the military Preparations going forward in this Kingdom; and the whole Discourse runs upon an approaching Rupture between the King and his Catholick Majesty.

Two *Spanish* Ships of War are immediately to sail from *Cadiz*; the one to convoy the *Assogues*, and the other to protect several *Dutch* Vessels freighted with Ammunition and Stores, bound to *Carthagena* in *America*.

Eleven large Ships of the Line, now lying at *Ferrol*, are rigged, manned, and ready to put to Sea at a short Warning, together with Two Frigates; one of which is bound to the *South Seas*, with Cannon Balls, Powder, and many other Implements of War.

By Advices from *Barcelona* I hear, that Two of the Catholick King's Ships of War sailed from thence, the End of last Month, with Two large Barks under their Convoy, loaded with 3500 Barrels of Gunpowder, 1500 Bomb-shells, 500 Chests of Arms, and a considerable Quantity of Cannon Balls of different Dimensions; which Cargo, it is imagined, is destined for the *Spanish West Indies*: Many more warlike Stores are ready to be shipped from *Catalonia*; and it was reported, an Embargo was laid on large Barks at *Barcelona* for that Purpose.

Five Battalions of different Regiments of Infantry, and Two Squadrons of Dragoons, are at *Cadiz*, waiting their final Orders to embark for *America*; This Corps makes in all about 3600 Men.

I have desired His Majesty's Consuls would be very attentive to all that is going forward in the several Places where they reside; and that they would not fail sending me constant Accounts of what they observed, in order for my being more particular in my Intelligence to your Lordship.

I never see General *Wall*, to talk upon Business, but that he expatiates upon the Haughtiness, with which *Great Britain* has long treated the Crown of *Spain*; as if we imagined, by that Means, to intimidate this Country from pursuing its Claims; or that we should thereby avoid doing Justice to the Catholick King, concerning our ill-grounded Settlements upon the Logwood Coasts, as well as with regard to our denying the *Spanish* Subjects the Liberty of Fishing upon the *Newfoundland* Coasts.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

[ 36 ]

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont,  
dated Madrid, Nov. 16, 1761. Received Dec. 8.

My LORD,

THE Messenger *Ardouin* delivered to me on the 10th Instant, at the Escorial, the Honour of your Lordship's Dispatches of the 28th past, with the several Enclosures therein referred to; and, by the last Post, I received your Letter of the 20th of the same Month, in which your Lordship informed me, that all mine to the 21st Sept. had been regularly laid before His Majesty.

On Saturday the 14th, the Catholick King, with the rest of the Royal Family, arrived in this Capital, for a Part of the Winter Season.

Immediately after the Receipt of your Lordship's Dispatch, by the Messenger, I went to General *Wall*, with whom I had a long Conference: I have seen his Excellency once since. As the Hurry of the Court's Departure from the Escorial, prevented my having any Answer at that Time; and the present Bustle, attending the Arrival at the *Buen Retiro*, will not allow the Spanish Minister Leisure, for some Days, to renew our Discourses on the interesting Subject contained in His Majesty's Commands to me; I must suspend sending Home any Account of my Negotiations, till I can give a particular Detail of the Whole.

The military Preparations in this Kingdom, are very far from slackening. Sixteen hundred Men, Draughts from different Corps of Infantry, with several Officers, entered the Town of *Ferrol* the Beginning of this Month; they were expected to embark shortly for the *West Indies*, and are to be escorted by Three Ships of the Line.

A Regiment of Foot is lately gone to *Majorca*, and another has Orders to hold itself in Readiness to be sent to the same Island.

The Spaniards have, at present, including all their Naval Force in *America*, Nineteen Ships of War in those Seas: I have heard various Accounts of the Number of Frigates which attend that *West India* Fleet, but I believe there are not fewer than Sixteen of different Sizes.

What may be the ultimate Resolution of this Court, no One can, as yet, pretend entirely to determine; but, it is certain, his Catholick Majesty is taking every Measure, which can put him in a Condition to be prepared for all Events. It is difficult to attain at the real Truth of any of the Spanish Projects; for, where One Man only is consulted, Secrecy and Expedition must naturally attend the Execution of their Designs.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

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Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont,  
dated Madrid, Nov. 23, 1761. Received Dec. 14.

My LORD,

THE Comte de la Tour, Ambassador from the Court of *Turin*, presented his Re-credential Letters Yesterday to the Catholick King, in a private Audience; the bad State of this Minister's Health, for several Months past, had obliged him to solicit his Sardinian Majesty's Leave to retire from Business.

It will not be possible for me to re-dispatch a Messenger to *England* for several Days, notwithstanding my having had another long Conference with M. *Wall*, at which I entered minutely into every Argument suggested to me by your Lordship. Altho' I dare not flatter myself with having gained any Ground upon the Spanish Minister, yet I never before observed his Excellency listen with greater Attention to my Discourse, than at our late Meeting. When he answered me, it was without Warmth; when he applied to me, it was friendly; and, after long Reasonings on both Sides, we parted with reciprocal Protestations to each other, of our earnest Desire to continue in Peace. General *Wall* also promised me, to acquaint his Catholick Majesty circumstantially, with what had passed between us. I intreat your Lordship not to think me inconsequential in what I relate: It is my Duty to mention the Result of each Interview with the Spanish Secretary of State. All I sent an Account of in my Letters of the 2d Instant, was literally what had happened at that Time; and the Charge I have just hinted, when I last saw M. *Wall*, is equally certain.

Our Enemies have unjustly asserted, that the Indians, who are besieging the Spanish Fort of *Pensacola*, were prompted to that Undertaking by the King's Subjects, and are even now assisted by the *Georgians*, in carrying on their Attacks. I do not think General *Wall* gives Credit to so great a Falshood, advanced by the *French*; but, if the Catholick King could harbour so ungenerous a Suspicion of our Conduct, I hope I have said enough to his Minister, to prove, how very far we should be from countenancing such a Proceeding, much less promoting so hostile a Measure, against a Power, whose Friendship *Great Britain* was seeking to cultivate.

I seized on that favourable Opportunity of expatiating on the inseparable Connection of Interests, that could not fail (I hoped soon) to unite us, notwithstanding the mean Artifices, and insidious Attempts, which *France*, under the specious Veil of Friendship towards the Court of *Madrid*, had employed to sow Dissension between us; and that merely with a View to drain these Royal Coffers of it's Treasure, to be expended for the Support of their declining Colonies, without any real Regard to the Spanish Pretensions.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

*Translation of a Paper delivered by the Count de Fuentes to the Earl of Egremont, Dec. 21, 1761.*

MY Lord *Bristol* gave me, some Days since, the inclosed Memorial. He sets forth, in the first Article, the Satisfaction of his Court, in the King's Justice, in ordering the Restitution of the Ship the *Speedwell*, and in the Moderation with which the Privateer the *King George* has been treated: There is nothing to answer to this. His Majesty is very glad that his Rectitude and Moderation are acknowledged by the *British* Ministry.

My Lord *Bristol* says, in the second Article, that having communicated to his Court, in a Dispatch in the Month of *September* last, agreeably to the Assurances he had received, the King's Intention to cultivate a good Correspondence with His Britannick Majesty; he had been expressly ordered to make known the real Pleasure which such a Declaration of the Sentiments of our Court had occasioned. I do not remember any Thing, at this Time, more particular, than on an infinite Number of other Occasions; neither do I myself comprehend the Motive for heightening this. It is very true, that, at all Times, either in the Reign of the late King *Don Ferdinand*, or in that of the present King, the *Spanish* Ministers have always repeated the Desire of their Court, to cultivate the most perfect Correspondence with that of *London*. My Lord *Bristol* adds, in the same Article, that he must not omit to assure, that no Order has been sent for augmenting the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*: This does not surprize the King, as he has not given Cause for the least Suspicion; and he would be no more surprized at the contrary, the *English* being no less Masters to augment them, than the King is to do it in his own Places.

There follows another Article, wherein my Lord *Bristol* expresses, that the King his Master has nothing more at Heart, than to strengthen the most cordial and the most sincere Friendship with the King, and that he does not doubt of meeting with the same Dispositions on the Part of *Spain*; for there is nothing more evident than the mutual Advantage which must, at all Times, result to the Two Kingdoms from such a Reciprocity. All this Discourse is only to bring in, after such a Declaration, that it ought not to be surprizing, that his Court wishes, and requires, from the *Spanish* Ministers, a Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between the King and his most Christian Majesty, or the Articles that relate to her. You know how easy it would be for the King to give a positive Answer, but his own Dignity hinders him from it; considering this Demand as a necessary Condition for entering upon a Negotiation with *Spain*, on Differences, which they own have subsisted a long Time; without which (he says) how can His Majesty persuade himself to enter upon a Negotiation with *Spain*? Whoever should hear talk of entering upon a Negotiation, would believe, that it was not as yet begun, and that our Differences had never been spoke of. It would also be thought, that a Favour was done us, by considering them as worthy

thy of a Negotiation. It is a very singular Method of that Ministry, not to mention so many Offices, Memorials, and Conferences, which have passed within these Six Years, and particularly after the King sent you to that Court, by which both our just Pretensions, and the incontestable Right of our Complaints, are proved; always confirming, that without a Reparation, it is impossible to cement the good Correspondence of the Two Monarchies, or the Friendship of the Two Sovereigns, so worthy of the Reciprocity of their Esteem. If all that we have set forth, both by Word of Mouth, and in Writing; if all the Answers and Replies on each Side; in a Word, if so many Proofs with which we have concluded, are not called a Negotiation, I don't know what can be one.

My Lord *Bristol* promises, that, if the King makes known the Existence, or Nonexistence, of the said Treaty, or his Engagements relative to the *English*, the King his Master, this Obstacle once removed, is determined, without Loss of Time, to enter into an amicable Discussion of the Matters, which make the Subject of the Disputes of the Two Crowns; not at all doubting, but that they may be easily adjusted, and being convinced, that a reciprocal and extensive Confidence, cannot fail to suggest Expedients to save the Dignity and the Honour of the Two Kings. Even what his Court pretends to, ought not to be considered as of great Value to her, since she only offers in return, what we are tired of doing. What other Discussion of the Matter of our Disputes, than what has been agitated, during so long a Negotiation; what other Expedients can be found, to save the Honour and Dignity of the Two Kings, that have not been proposed, and exhausted, in a Contest of Six Years? and if any are found at *London, Spain* well deserves, by the Patience with which she has pursued her Instances, and with which she has seen the various Successes of the *English* in this War, the Correspondence of declaring them to her without Condition. The most noble Expedient, and which does the most Honour to Sovereigns, and to those who are not so, is not to possess, without Right, the Property of another Person; to restore it, and even to chastise the Usurpers, without waiting, if it can be, till the Injured demands it.

My Lord *Bristol* ends, with an Article absolutely foreign to our Affairs, by declaring, that the most perfect Unanimity reigns in the Councils of *Great Britain*; and that the King is resolved to push the War with all possible Vigour, till His Enemies will submit to a Peace, suitable to the Successes of the *English* Arms, and which may have a solid and durable Appearance. We have no Idea of answering directly to this Article: But the Two Conditions, which the *English* desire in the Peace, clearly contradict themselves, as all the World have just seen. Every impartial Person will decide, that the Conditions which have been offered by *France*, and rejected by *England*, were not disproportioned to the Advantages of the *English* Arms; and will attribute their Inadmission to other Views, which ought not to be indifferent to



to the other Maritime Powers, and who possess Dominions beyond Sea; and will be astonished to see, that *England*, who wishes for a Peace that appears solid and durable, is angry, however, at the Insinuation made to her by *France*, representing to her, how beneficial it would be, to reconcile, at the same Time, our Differences, in order to avoid the Danger of recommencing a new War, for our Assistance.

My Lord *Bristol* demanded of us then, by another Memorial, if *France* had taken that Step with the King's Consent; as he now demands of us, if the Treaty with *France*, exists or not. We answered him sincerely, yes; proving to him the Regularity of it: And we added, on that Occasion, to the Expressions of that Court, on the good Correspondence which they wished for, how much they were esteemed; but that it was necessary, that the Proofs of the Fact should accompany them; and, as if such a Memorial had never been given on our Side, and entirely forgetting it, another is presented to us, with a new Demand, with the former general Expressions, and with so unexpected a Novelty, as the Offer to enter into a Negotiation, so strongly discussed, that it has been reduced, during your Embassy, to the last Yes, or to the last No.

When once you shall be informed of all that I have just set forth, you may acquaint that Ministry of it, either by Word of Mouth, or in Writing; in order that we may never be reproached, for not having answered my Lord *Bristol's* Memorial; and in order that they may perceive the Irregularity there is, that the King should always satisfy their Curiosity, and that his just Demands should never be satisfied.

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Egremont to the Earl of Bristol,*  
dated December the 22d, 1761.

My LORD,

I AM to acquaint your Excellency, that it is reported in the City, that Part of Admiral *Holmes's* Squadron has lately seized some *Spanish* Barks at *Monte Christi*, laden with Sugar, &c. and has treated them as if they were legal Prize.

Though this Intelligence is hitherto unsupported by any Information which our most diligent Enquiries can collect at the Admiralty, or elsewhere, yet I had the King's Permission to speak of it to the *Conde de Fuentes*, and to express His Majesty's Concern upon hearing it; to which I added His Majesty's Assurances, that this Matter shall be most strictly enquired into; and, should the Facts alleged prove true, not a Moment shall be lost in taking such Steps, as, it is not doubted, will thoroughly satisfy his Catholick Majesty with regard to the unjustifiable and unauthorized Conduct of any of His Servants upon this Occasion: And that nothing might be omitted which could lead to a speedy and thorough

Knowledge of this Matter, the King has ordered a Ship of War to be immediately dispatched to the *West Indies*, with Directions, to make the strictest Examination into the Foundation for this Report, that such farther Steps may be taken as the Case shall appear to require.

It is in order to prevent the malicious Use which might be made of this unlucky Accident, and to shew His Majesty's Readiness to do the strictest Justice to the Catholick King, that I am directed to transmit to your Excellency, without Loss of Time, the real State of this Affair; not doubting but your Excellency, without any particular Directions on this Head, will, at this critical Conjuncture, let M. *Wall* see, in a true Light, and in it's full Extent, that it is not more the invariable and steady Principle of His Majesty's Conduct towards the Crown of *Spain*, to support His own Dignity and the just Rights of His Subjects, than it is, not only to redress a real Injury done to his Catholick Majesty's Subjects, but even to prevent a Complaint.

I am, &c.

EGREMONT.

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont,*  
dated Madrid, Dec. the 11th, 1761. Received December the 24th.

My LORD,

THIS is the only Method I am allowed to take, to communicate to your Lordship my Intention of setting out as soon as possible for *Lisbon*. I have obeyed the King's Commands. By the Paper marked (A), your Lordship sees the Substance of what was mentioned at my First Conference with General *Wall*; by that with the Letter (B), what passed at our Second Interview: Copies of both which Papers the *Spanish* Minister desired he might have. These Conferences were the 6th and 8th Instant. General *Wall*, on the 10th at Night, sent me Two Letters, one an Office, Copy and Translation of which are distinguished C and D; the other by a private Letter in his own Hand. I had prepared some very long Dispatches for your Lordship, relating all Particulars, but I was denied Post-horses to send a Messenger, even to ask for Passports from the Court of *Portugal*; and M. *de Llanos*, who is just gone from me, has owned, in the most polite Terms, that I could not, by any Method, send any Person whatever to any Part of *Spain*, for I know I am surrounded with their Spies. I would, if it were possible for me, set out immediately for the Frontiers of *Portugal*, the nearest Town of which Kingdom is 240 Miles from hence; and such are the Roads, that no Carriage can go it under Nine Days; but I am, at this Moment, and have been for so long, so excessively out of Order, that, were I to attempt getting from hence even so soon as I could get

Mules, which all those who furnish them seem to try to delay my doing, my deplorable Situation is such, that I should be forced to stop at some Village near Madrid, without being able to get forward: However, I have tried at a Method I do not mention, for fear of this Letter being decyphered, to convey the whole Intelligence to Admiral Saunders, General Parflow, and the Consuls. Mr. Porten, seeing how ill I am, has promised to set out forthwith for Lisbon; and by him I shall be able to have the Letters forwarded which I have now ready. I propose dispatching a Messenger when I do get into Portugal, with a great Number of Letters for your Lordship. The Messenger being to set out so soon, I have not Time to add more.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of Notes given to General Wall, at our First Conference, the 6th December, 1761. (A.)

COUNT of Fuentes accompanied the Catholick King's Letter to His Majesty, with the strongest Professions of Friendship from Spain. The King's particular Delicacy, in concerting military Plans, to avoid any Hostilities towards Objects that could give Umbrage to his Catholick Majesty. An Answer concerning the Treaty; as well as to know the Intention of Spain, with regard to Great Britain.

Nothing could more essentially give real Satisfaction to His Majesty, than my procuring such an Answer, as might contribute to the Continuation of that friendly Intercourse, which it is not more the Interest of both Crowns to maintain, than it is the King's sincere Desire to cultivate.

Copy of Notes wrote down in the Closet of General Wall, and given by me to his Excellency, Tuesday, the 8th December, the Day of our Second Conference. (B.)

Whether the Court of Madrid intends to join the French, our Enemies, to act hostilely against Great Britain? or to depart, in any Manner, from its Neutrality?

A categorical Answer is expected to those Questions; otherwise, a Refusal to comply will be looked upon as an Aggression, on the Part of Spain, and a Declaration of War.

General

General Wall, B. Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761. Translation. (D.)

Most Excellent Lord;

My LORD,

YOUR Excellency having expressed to me, the Day before Yesterday, and being even pleased to put in Writing, That you had Orders to ask a positive and categorical Answer to the Question, If Spain thought of joining herself with France against England? Declaring, at the same Time, that you should look upon the Refusal as a Declaration of War; and that you would, in consequence, leave this Court. The Spirit of Haughtiness and of Discord, which dictated this inconsiderate Step, and which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, still reigns so much in the British Government, is what made, in the same Instant, the Declaration of War, and attacked the King's Dignity. Your Excellency may think of retiring when, and in the Manner, is convenient to you; which is the only Answer that, without detaining you, his Majesty has ordered me to give you. The Indisposition your Excellency saw me in, scarce permitted me to go to receive the King's Commands.

May your Excellency carry away with you all the Happiness which corresponds to your personal Qualities, and the constant Remembrance of the sincere Affection with which I am, praying God for the long Preservation of your Life,

Buen Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761.

Most Excellent Lord, I kiss your Excellency's Hands,

Your obedient Servant,

Don RICARDO WALL.

Private, General Wall, Madrid, 10 Dec. 1761. Translation.

My LORD,

MY Uneasiness, ever since the Moment that your Excellency communicated to me the Orders which you have received from your Court, has not permitted me to delay, any longer, your Excellency's Instances, full of Attention; and I have been (notwithstanding my Indisposition) to give an Account to the King, my Master, of the last Questions which you have been ordered to put to my Court.

F 2

Your

Your Excellency will see, by the inclosed Letter, what are his Majesty's Sentiments; you know mine for your Person. I hope to have the Honour of seeing you, and confirming to you again, by Word of Mouth, the Esteem and the Respect with which I am perfectly,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's most Obedient

and most Humble Servant,

W A L L.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid, Nov. 30, 1761. Received Dec. 25.

My LORD,

I Was honoured with your Lordship's Letter of the 6th Instant, by the last Post; and I received, inclosed therein, His Majesty's most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, together with a Copy of the Motion made in the House of Peers to address the King on that Occasion; in which I had the sincere Pleasure of observing the warmest Returns of Duty and Gratitude expressed towards our Sovereign, for the repeated Marks of Royal Care and Affection, which we have all experienced since His Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne.

Altho' M. Wall had received the King's Speech from the Count of Fuentes, yet I read it over with his Excellency; who told me, he did not doubt of it's giving as much Satisfaction in England, as it had met with Approbation Abroad, from the great Candour and Moderation which was displayed throughout the Whole.

Your Lordship will, I flatter myself, do me the Justice to believe, that my not dispatching an Answer to your important Dispatch of the 28th past, does not proceed from any Dilatoriness in me. I have frequently seen M. Wall, and have as often entered into Discourse concerning what was so particularly recommended by your Lordship; yet the Spanish Minister has, hitherto, cautiously avoided disclosing the Sentiments of this Court; alledging, that he expected shortly to receive the Catholick King's Commands to acquaint me with the Resolutions of Spain, relative to my Applications: And his Excellency assured me, at our last Meeting, it would not be long before he should enable me to send Home a Messenger.

Orders

Orders have been transmitted to Cadix, for the fortifying of the *Cartaca* in that Neighbourhood. Two large Spanish Ships of the Line arrived lately there, with Naval Stores, from the *Corunna*.

I am, &c.

B, R I S T O L.

Translation of a Note delivered to the Earl of Egremont, by the Count de Fuentes. December 25th, 1761.

THE Count de Fuentes, the Catholick King's Ambassador to His Britannick Majesty, has just received a Courier from his Court, by whom he is informed, that my Lord Bristol, His Britannick Majesty's Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, has said to his Excellency Mr. Wall, Minister of State, That he had Orders to demand a positive and categorical Answer to this Question, viz. If Spain thinks of allying herself with France against England? and to declare, at the same Time, that he should take a Refusal to his Demand for an Aggression and Declaration of War; and that he should, in consequence, be obliged to retire from the Court of Spain. The above Minister of State answered him, That such a Step could only be suggested by the Spirit of Haughtiness and of Discord, which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, still reigns but too much in the British Government; That it was in that very Moment that the War was declared, and the King's Dignity violently attacked: That he might retire how and when he should think proper.

The Count de Fuentes is, in consequence, ordered to leave the Court and the Dominions of England; and to declare to the British King, to the English Nation, and to the whole Universe, That the Horrors into which the Spanish and English Nations are going to plunge themselves, must be attributed only to the Pride, and to the unmeasurable Ambition, of him who has held the Reins of the Government, and who appears still to hold them, although by another Hand: That if his Catholick Majesty excused himself from answering on the Treaty in Question, between his Catholick Majesty, and his Most Christian Majesty, which is believed to have been signed the 15th of August, and wherein it is pretended there are Conditions relative to England, he had very good Reasons; First, The King's Dignity required him to manifest his just Repentment of the little Management, or to speak more properly, of the insulting Manner, with which all the Affairs of Spain have been treated during Mr. Pitt's Administration; who, finding himself convinced of the Justice which supported the King in His Pretensions, his ordinary and last Answer was, That he would not relax in any Thing, till the Tower of London was taken Sword in Hand.

Besides,

Besides, his Majesty was much shocked to hear the haughty and imperious Tone, with which the Contents of the Treaty were demanded of him. If the Respect, due to Royal Majesty, had been regarded, Explanations might have been had without any Difficulty: The Ministers of *Spain* might have said frankly to those of *England*, what the Count *de Fuentes*, by the King's express Order, declares publickly, viz. That the said Treaty is only a Convention between the Family of *Bourbon*, wherein there is nothing which has the least Relation to the present War: That there is in it an Article for the mutual Guaranty of the Dominions of the Two Sovereigns; but it is specified therein, that that Guaranty is not to be understood but of the Dominions which shall remain to *France*, after the present War shall be ended: That although his Catholick Majesty might have had Reason to think himself offended, by the irregular Manner in which the Memorial was returned to *M. de Bussy* Minister of *France*, which he had presented, for terminating the Differences of *Spain* and *England*, at the same Time with the War between This last and *France*, he has however dissembled; and from an Effect of his Love of Peace, caused a Memorial to be delivered to my Lord *Bristol*, wherein it is evidently demonstrated, that the Step of *France*, which put the Minister *Pitt* into so bad Humour, did not at all offend either the Laws of Neutrality, or the Sincerity of the Two Sovereigns: That further, from a fresh Proof of his pacific Spirit, the King of *Spain* wrote to the King of *France*, his Cousin, That if the Union of Interest, in any Manner retarded the Peace with *England*, he consented to separate himself from it, not to put any Obstacle to so great a Happiness. But it was soon seen that this was only a Pretence, on the Part of the *English* Minister: For, That of *France*, continuing his Negotiation, without making any Mention of *Spain*, and proposing Conditions very advantageous and honourable for *England*, the Minister *Pitt*, to the great Astonishment of the Universe, rejected them with Disdain; and shewed, at the same Time, his Ill-will against *Spain*, to the Scandal of the same *British* Council; and unfortunately he has succeeded but too far in his pernicious Design.

This Declaration made, the Count *de Fuentes* desires his Excellency, my Lord *Egremont*, to present his most humble Respects to His *Britannick* Majesty; and to obtain for him Passports, and all other Facilities, for him, his Family, and all his Retinue, to go out of the Dominions of *Great Britain*, without any Trouble, and to go by the short Passage of the Sea, which separates them from the Continent.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid, Dec. 7, 1761. Received Dec. 29.

My LORD,

I Received last Post the Honour of your Lordship's Letter of the 17th of *Nov.* inclosing the Address, presented the preceding Day to His Majesty, by the House of Commons, wherein the very warm and affectionate Assurances of their Zeal for the King's Service, and Resolutions to support His Majesty with the utmost Vigour, in the Prosecution of the War, were so satisfactorily evident to all His Majesty's dutiful Servants, and Subjects. You cannot doubt, my Lord, of my having carried the Address to General *Wall*; his Excellency read it over before me with Attention, and afterwards said, That it was full of a right and proper Zeal; at the same Time, that it was truly dutiful and affectionate; adding, that he was persuaded, the King would always experience from his most faithful Commons, the like Sentiments, at which he should ever truly rejoice.

The Patriarch of the *Indies* received last *Saturday* the Cardinal's Cap from *Rome*, having been named to that Dignity by His Catholick Majesty: His Eminence is Brother to the Duke of *Medina Celi*, and now is stiled Cardinal *de la Cerda*.

The Messenger *Potter* arrived here the 5th Instant at Night, and brought me the Honour of your Lordship's Dispatches of the 19th past. I saw *M. Wall* the 6th in the Morning, who was confined to his Room, by an Accident that had happened to one of his Feet. We had a very long Conference upon the Subject of your Lordship's Letters; and his Excellency has this Day wrote to acquaint me, with his Desire of my returning to him to-morrow Morning; so that I expect to be able to dispatch this Messenger to *England* in a few Days.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Translation of the Answer delivered to the Count de Fuentes, by the Earl of Egremont, Dec. 31, 1761.

THE Earl of *Egremont*, His Britannick Majesty's Secretary of State, having received from his Excellency the Count *de Fuentes*, Ambassador of the Catholick King at the Court of *London*, a Paper, in which, besides the Notification of his Recall, and the Demand of the necessary Passports to go out of the King's Dominions, he has thought proper to enter into what has just



just passed between the Two Courts, with a View to make That of *London* appear as the Source of all the Misfortunes which may insue from the Ruptur which has happened. In order that no body may be misled, by the Declaration which his Excellency has been pleased to make to the King, to the *English* Nation, and to the whole Universe; notwithstanding the Insinuation, as void of Foundation as of Decency, of the Spirit of Haughtiness and of Discord, which his Excellency pretends reigns in the *British* Government, to the Misfortune of Mankind; and, notwithstanding the Irregularity and Indecency of appealing to the *English* Nation, as if it could be separated from its King, for whom the most determined Sentiments of Love, of Duty, and of Confidence, are engraved in the Hearts of all his Subjects; the said Earl of *Egremont*, by His Majesty's Order, laying aside, in this Answer, all Spirit of Declamation, and of Harshness, avoiding every offensive Word, which might hurt the Dignity of Sovereigns, without stooping to Invectives against private Persons, will confine himself to Facts with the most scrupulous Exactness: And it is from this Representation of Facts, that he appeals to all *Europe*, and to the whole Universe, for the Purity of the King's Intentions, and for the Sincerity of the Wishes His Majesty has not ceased to make, as well as for the Moderation He has always shewed, though in vain, for the Maintenance of Friendship and good Understanding, between the *British* and *Spanish* Nations.

The King having received undoubted Informations, That the Court of *Madrid* had secretly contracted Engagements with that of *Versailles*, which the Ministers of *France* laboured to represent, in all the Courts of *Europe*, as offensive to *Great Britain*; and combining these Appearances with the Step which the Court of *Spain* had, a little Time before, taken, towards His Majesty, in avowing its Consent, (though that Avowal had been followed by Apologies) to the Memorial presented the 23d of *July*, by the *Sieur de Bussy*, Minister Plenipotentiary of the most Christian King, to the King's Secretary of State; and His Majesty having afterwards received Intelligence, scarce admitting a Doubt, of Troops marching, and of Military Preparations making in all the Ports of *Spain*, judged that His Dignity, as well as His Prudence, required Him to order His Ambassador at the Court of *Madrid*, by a Dispatch dated the 28th of *October*, to demand, in Terms the most measured, however, and the most amicable, a Communication of the Treaty recently concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*, or, at least, of the Articles which might relate to the Interest of *Great Britain*; And, in order to avoid every thing which could be thought to imply the least Slight of the Dignity, or even the Delicacy, of his Catholick Majesty, the Earl of *Bristol* was authorized to content himself with Assurances, in case the Catholick King offered to give any, that the said Engagements did not contain any Thing that was contrary to the Friendship which subsisted between the Two Crowns, or that was prejudicial to the Interests of *Great Britain*, supposing that any Difficulty was made, of shewing the Treaty. The King could not give a less equivocal Proof, of His Dependence on the good Faith of the Catholick King, than in shewing

shewing him an unbounded Confidence in so important an Affair, and which so essentially interested His own Dignity, the Good of His Kingdoms, and the Happiness of His People.

How great then was the King's Surprise, when, instead of receiving the just Satisfaction which He had a Right to expect, He learnt from His Ambassador, that, having addressed himself to the Minister of *Spain* for that Purpose, he could only draw from him a Refusal, to give a satisfactory Answer to His Majesty's just Requisitions, which he had accompanied with Terms that breathed nothing but Haughtiness, Animosity, and Menace, and which seemed so strongly to verify the Suspicions of the unamicable Disposition of the Court of *Spain*, that nothing less than His Majesty's Moderation, and His Resolution taken to make all the Efforts possible, to avoid the Misfortunes inseparable from a Rupture, could determine Him to make a last Trial, by giving Orders to His Ambassador, to address himself to the Minister of *Spain*, to desire him to inform him of the Intentions of the Court of *Madrid*, towards That of *Great Britain*, in this Conjunction, if they had taken Engagements, or formed the Design to join the King's Enemies in the present War, or to depart in any Manner from the Neutrality they had hitherto observed; and to make That Minister sensible, that, if they persisted in refusing all Satisfaction, on Demands so just, so necessary, and so interesting, the King could not but consider such a Refusal as the most authentick Avowal, that *Spain* had taken her Part, and that there only remained for His Majesty to take the Measures, which His Royal Prudence should dictate, for the Honour and Dignity of His Crown, and for the Prosperity and Protection of His People: And to recall His Ambassador.

Unhappily for the publick Tranquility, for the Interest of the Two Nations, and for the Good of Mankind, this last Step was as fruitless as the preceding Ones; The *Spanish* Minister, keeping no further Measures, answered drily, "That it was in That very Moment, that the War was declared, and the King's Dignity attacked, and that the Earl of *Bristol* might retire, how, and when, he should think proper."

And in order to set in its true Light, the Declaration, "That, if the Respect due to his Catholick Majesty had been regarded, Explanations might have been had without any Difficulty; and that the Ministers of *Spain* might have said frankly, as *M. de Fuentes*, by the King's express Order, declares publickly, That the said Treaty is only a Convention between the Family of *Bourbon*; wherein there is nothing which has the least Relation to the present War; and that the Guaranty, which is therein specified, is not to be understood but of the Dominions which shall remain to *France* after the War." It is declared, that, very far from thinking of being wanting to the Respect acknowledged to be due to Crowned Heads, the Instructions given to the Earl of *Bristol* have always been, to make the Requisitions on the Subject of the Engagements between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*, with all the Decency, and all the Attention possible: And the Demand of a categorical

rical Answer was not made, till after repeated and the most stinging Refusals to give the least Satisfaction, and at the last Extremity. Therefore, if the Court of *Spain* ever had the Design to give this so necessary Satisfaction; they had not the least Reason that ought to have engaged them to defer it to the Moment when it could no longer be of use. But, fortunately, the Terms in which the Declaration is conceived, spare us the Regret of not having received it sooner; for it appears, at first Sight, that the Answer is not at all conformable to the Demand. We wanted to be informed, If the Court of *Spain* intended to join the *French*, our Enemies, to make War on *Great Britain*; or to depart from their Neutrality? Whereas the Answer concerns one Treaty only, which is said to be of the 15th of *August*; carefully avoiding to say the least Word that could explain, in any Manner, the Intentions of *Spain* towards *Great Britain*, or the further Engagements they may have contracted in the present Crisis.

After a Deduction as exact as faithful of what has passed between the Two Courts, it is left to the impartial Publick to decide, which of the Two has always been inclined to Peace, and which was determined on War.

As to the rest, the Earl of *Egremont* has the Honour to acquaint his Excellency the Count *de Fuentes*, by the King's Order, That the necessary Passports for him shall be expedited; and that they will not fail to procure him all possible Facilities for his Passage to the Port which he shall think most convenient.

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, Most Secret. Dated Madrid, Dec. 6, 1761. Received Jan. 9, 1762.*

My LORD,

I Took the earliest Opportunity, after receiving the Honour of your Lordship's Dispatches of the 28th of *October*, of informing General *Wall*, how particularly His Majesty had expressed His Royal Satisfaction at hearing the Declarations, which had been made to me by his Excellency, of the Catholick King's Intentions to cultivate a close Correspondence with His Majesty; and I told the *Spanish* Minister, I could then authentically assure him, that no Orders had been issued for augmenting the Fortifications at *Gibraltar*.

After dwelling upon the King's Readiness to come to a speedy Adjustment of all the Differences subsisting between the Two Courts, my Discourse naturally led towards a Repetition of those Professions I had, on former Occasions, so frequently made use of, to convince the *Spanish* Secretary of State, that the King had nothing more at Heart, than to continue, and, if possible, to augment, that Friendship and Cordiality, which His Majesty sincerely felt for the Catholick King; not doubting, but that the like Disposition, together with a suitable Return from *Spain*, would be the corresponding Effect of such an Avowal of His Majesty's Sentiments. After

After opening myself in this Manner, I observed, how consistent it was with the good Intelligence that had so long united Two friendly Courts, reciprocally to enquire into, or to remove, any Uneasinesses, which the Envy and Malice of a Third might endeavour to sow in the Minds of either of those amicable Powers. Therefore, after *France* had so openly, as well as industriously, asserted throughout *Europe*, and but with too much Success, That *Spain* was on the Point of embarking in the present War against *England*, in consequence of a Treaty lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Versailles*; it was neither surprizing, nor could it be deemed unreasonable, that His Majesty should desire a Communication of that Treaty; or, at least, of such Articles, as might be deemed to relate, either now or hereafter, immediately or indirectly, to the Interests of *Great Britain*: I took Care to explain, that the pressing Instances I was ordered to make, did not proceed from any Distrust in the King, of the reiterated Assurances of *Spain's* Friendship towards *England*, conveyed so authentically through me, nor from a Suspicion of his Catholick Majesty's entering into any Engagements of a hostile Nature against the King, after all the cordial Professions which had been made use of, so much to the contrary; yet the positive Language of our Enemies, and their boasting Assertions, were such, that it was highly expedient to stop the unfavourable Impressions they had occasioned at other Courts; therefore the King judged it to be indispensably necessary for the Dignity of His Crown, and not less so for the Interests of His People, to require an Explanation relative to a Report so universally credited, before His Majesty could consent to proceed in a Negotiation with this Court, towards a just and equitable Regulation of our long depending Differences: Besides, as *Spain* had regularly received extensive Communications of all His Majesty's Alliances or Connections, an unfriendly Reserve towards the King, concerning a Treaty so recently concluded between this Court and that of *France*, His Majesty's declared as well as inveterate Enemy, would unavoidably prevent any candid and impartial Discussion of the Claims, Rights, or Differences, of the Two Kingdoms; yet, this Obstacle once removed, His Majesty was determined, without Loss of Time, to discuss, in the most open and cordial Manner, the several Disputes of both Crowns; not doubting, but that a mutual Confidence would indicate Expedients, which, whilst they saved the Dignity and Honour of both Kings, would naturally point out the Method of adjusting Matters to the mutual Satisfaction, the reciprocal Contentment, and, consequently, the permanent Advantage, of both Nations.

As the *French* Partisans had so successfully persuaded many considerable Persons at this Court, that the Spirit of the War would subside by the late Change in the *English* Ministry, that Disunion and an unconnected System now presided amongst the several Members who compose the present Administration; I thought it highly incumbent upon me, to mention the thorough Harmony and perfect Unanimity which subsisted in His Majesty's Councils, together with the settled Determination to carry on the War with Vigour, altho'

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altho' His Majesty, from His great Clemency and unequall'd Moderation, continued to be uniformly disposed to put a Stop to the dreadful Calamities of War, as soon as the King could perceive His Enemies were inclined to agree to such Terms, as the Honour of His Crown, and the Success of His Majesty's Forces, naturally claimed; without which there could be no Prospect of a lasting, solid Peace, such as might insure Mankind from the dreadful Calamities so many Nations had, during the present War, experienced in the different Parts of the World.

For greater Accuracy, and to avoid blending my own Discourse with the *Spanish* Minister's Reasonings, I have united, in the former Part of this Letter, the chief Substance of what I advanced in our several Conferences; and will now proceed to relate the principal Tenor of M. *Wall's* Arguments, without intermixing any of my Answers thereto, in order to obviate any Appearance of Confusion.

His Excellency first mentioned his having received the Catholick King's Commands to assure me, how agreeable it was to this Court, to find the Uprightness and Moderation of *Spain* was acknowledged, where it had given so much Satisfaction: he added, his not recollecting the particular Dates of those Times, when his Excellency had assured me of the sincere Dispositions of his Catholick Majesty, to cultivate the closest Correspondence with the King, since he had, on so many Occasions, repeated the same Assurances.

M. *Wall* received, with an apparent Indifference, what I said concerning there having been no additional Works carried on at *Gibraltar*, when I last hinted it; yet that was not the Case, when I first communicated to the *Spanish* Minister the Contents of General *Parflow's* Letter, wherein it was positively asserted, there had not been any Augmentation to the Fortifications of that Place.

His Excellency then told me, the warm and strong Expressions I had made use of, to convey the King's earnest Desire to cultivate the closest Correspondence with his Catholick Majesty, could never be received, but with sincere Satisfaction, by the Court of *Madrid*; yet, after my having been so often directed to hold the same Language, unaccompanied by any Proofs of those Dispositions, it could not seem extraordinary, if *Spain* still sought and pressed the Redress of those Grievances which had been so long depending, and which she thought herself so little advanced towards obtaining the Relief of.

With regard to the Treaty lately concluded between the Catholick King, and his Most Christian Majesty, the Secretary of State said, his Royal Master did not judge it to be consistent with his Dignity, to grant either the Communication of it, or to satisfy the *British* Curiosity, in relation to any Articles which we imagined had a Relation to our Concerns; yet his Excellency added, as from himself, he could give a positive Answer to what I asked with the utmost Facility; but here he broke off.

After

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After some Pause, the *Spanish* Minister resumed his Discourse, by alledging, his Court had been flattered, by that of *London*, with an impartial Discussion of their Disputes from the Year 1754; therefore the present Promise of entering into a fair Disquisition of our reciprocal Claims, after the Catholick King had resolved our Question concerning the late Treaty, seemed to infer, that all the Memorials and counter Memorials, with the several Offices, and Replies, had not been deserving the Name of a Negotiation. His Excellency then recurred, to what he had so often mentioned on many former Occasions, when our Differences had been the Subject we were treating upon, saying, That, if *England* would preserve that good Faith she had ever picqued herself upon, and which he did not deny to be the general Characteristick of the *British* Nation, How could our Ministry either avoid, decline, or delay, giving Satisfaction to *Spain*, with regard to the illegal Settlements we withheld from this Crown upon the Logwood Coasts? where we owned there were Establishments contrary to the Territorial Jurisdiction of his Catholick Majesty; therefore, the noblest, the greatest, and the only honourable Expedient for the adjusting of our Disputes, would be, for *England* first to send Orders for the Evacuation of all our Forts, and at the same Time to withdraw all the Artillery which had been deposited within some Entrenchments where Cannon was mounted for the Defence of them: Was it an amicable Proceeding, his Excellency said, to profess a Friendship for a Power, and to be gradually invading their Dominions; to usurp their Coasts, and then to persevere in maintaining an unjust Possession of what we had no Right to hold, but seemed determined to keep, as Pledges for compelling *Spain* to grant us the Logwood we stood in need of, especially after the most solemn, most authentick, and repeated Assurances that had been given, under a Royal Promise, that *England* should enjoy that beneficial Trade of Logwood; and moreover, that, until some equitable Regulation of that Commerce could be settled, to the mutual Satisfaction of both Crowns, the *English* Logwood Cutters should, upon no Pretence whatever, be disturbed in felling, or in carrying away, that Commodity; if the Orders, his Excellency added, were but given for demolishing the Fortifications, and a Copy of those Orders transmitted, to the King's Ambassador here, to be delivered to his Catholick Majesty's Ministers, it would at once silence the Court of *Versailles*, and take off the principal Handle they made use of, to exasperate the *Spanish* Nation against *Great Britain*.

With regard to the *Newfoundland* Fishery, M. *Wall* urged, what I have also conveyed in some former Dispatches, that the *Spaniards*, indeed, pleaded, in favour of their Claim to a Share of the *Bacallao* Trade, the first Discovery of that Island; but acknowledged they never had, or indeed ever required, any Establishments there: And, what had principally given Offence here, as to that Article, was my being so frequently ordered to declare, and the Conde *de Fuentes* having been as often told, that *England* would never hear of that inadmissible Pretension, which was denying, in the most peremptory Manner, what we had granted by the *Spanish* Treaty of 1721 (confirmed by that of *Aix la Chapelle*) That the *Biscayners* and *Guipuscoans* should enjoy those Privileges which they could prove to be their Due by Right. Then

Then the *Spanish* Minister said, He could not disguise from me the unfavourable Impression all *Europe* had received, from our breaking off so abruptly the Negotiations carrying on between *England* and *France* for their separate Peace; since the Conditions the *French* had complied with were such, as no One, who had not read the Accounts of what they had agreed to, could have believed the Court of *Versailles* would ever have consented to, by making such extensive Sacrifices to the *English*; and added, since we were not contented with those Offers from our Enemies, our Continuation of the War, to obtain still higher Terms, could not avoid giving Jealousy to all other Maritime Powers, who must apprehend too great a Balance being swung into the single Scale of *Great Britain*.

This, my Lord, to the best of my Recollection, and according to the Minutes I took, of the Heads of our Discourse, as soon as our several Conferences were over, was the principal Subject Matter of what passed, during our various Meetings: Two Things only, on the Perusal of my Notes, I perceive, I have omitted touching upon; The first was, that, as the Coasts of *Honduras*, and *Campeachy*, seem to be so indifferently laid down, by the Variety of Geographers who have published Maps of those Western Parts, or so inaccurately described, in any of the Charts I have been able to meet with, I desired General *Wall*, one Day, to point out to me the Position of *Rio Tinto*, the River *Wallis*, and the *Laguna Azul*, the Three Places so often quoted, as the *English* Usurpations; And his Excellency shewed me their Situations, acknowledging to me, that their Names were not inserted in any Maps; for the *Spaniards* had never published those Drawings their own Engineers had made, which included every Creek, upon the Logwood, and all other their Coasts in *America*. *Rio Tinto* (which the *English* call *Black Water*) is not many Leagues distant from *Cape Gracias a Dios*, a Promontory, that advances in the Sea at the *Rincon*, or Corner of the *Mosquito* Shore, about the Fourteenth Degree of Northern Latitude. The River *Wallis* is almost opposite to the Island of *Ratan*, where the *English* had settled themselves, during the last War; but which the Court of *London* had, at the Solicitation of that of *Madrid*, caused to be evacuated, after the Peace in 1748; when those very Settlers only removed from the Island to the Continent, and formed the Establishment now subsisting at the River *Wallis*: And that lays, according to what was pointed out to me, between the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Degree of Northern Latitude. The Third, last, and most inconsiderable Settlement, is upon the *Laguna Azul*, a Lake not far distant from the Bay of *Ascension*, which is in the Neighbourhood of a *Spanish* Town, called *Salamanca de Bacalar*, about the Eighteenth Northern Degree.

The Second Point that slipped my Notice, was, when M. *Wall* and I had been discussing the Substance of the Memorial, presented by the Court of *France*, in relation to the *Spanish* Claims, his Excellency solemnly protested to me, the Catholick King, upon finding how unacceptable that Proposal

was to *England*, had sent peremptory Orders to the Marquis *Grimaldi*, not to let the Pretensions of this Court, in the least interfere with the Progress of Mr. *Stanley's* and M. *Bussy's* Negotiations; and therefore to drop any farther Mention of them, lest they might be reputed an Impediment to the Conclusion of a Peace between *England* and *France*; which was the strongest Proof his Catholick Majesty could give, of his sincere Intentions, in wishing to have the Disputes of *Spain* amicably adjusted with *Great Britain*. I could not avoid observing to M. *Wall*, the little real Cordiality there was in the *French* Professions towards this Court, or Sincerity in their Declarations and Offers to accommodate our unhappy Differences with *Spain*; since every One was convinced, the most Christian King must desire to prevent our enjoying so advantageous a Trade, as that of Logwood: At the same Time, that the *French* Interest was too well understood by their Ministry, not to dread, above all Things, the *Spaniards* being ever let into the smallest Share of the *Bacallao* Trade; as it would so essentially affect their own extensive, as well as lucrative Branch of Commerce in that Commodity, which it had been agreed in our *Ultimatum*, to leave them in the Possession of, according to the Stipulations relative thereto, in the Peace of *Utrecht*.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, secret and confidential, dated Madrid, Dec. 6, 1761. Received Jan. 9, 1762.

My LORD,

YOUR Lordship has acquainted me, in your secret and confidential Letter, that His Majesty had been pleased to determine, neither to confine me in relation to the Method of opening myself to General *Wall*, on the important Subject of your most secret Dispatch, nor to prescribe whether I should communicate the Substance of it verbally, or trust the Whole, or any Part thereof, out of my Hands; as it was imagined from the Time I have had the Honour of being employed at this Court, I ought to be able to judge what Kind of Compliment, or Degree of Confidence, would best lead me to succeed in the delicate Commission at present left to my Management. I must desire to refer your Lordship for all Particulars to my most secret Letter of this Date, wherein you will see, that, so far from receiving that Communication I so eagerly solicited, it has not been possible for me to obtain any solemn Assurances of the Innocence of the Treaty in Question, altho' I am persuaded in my own Mind, there are no unfriendly Intentions therein (to *Great Britain*) which



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which Assurances your Lordship directed me not to reject, in case they were propos'd, but to admit of them *ad referendum*, to be transmitted to my own Court; provided, "They were given upon his Catholick Majesty's Royal Word, signified in Writing, either by the *Spanish* Secretary of State to me, " or by the Conde *de Fuentes* to your Lordship, and not otherwise."

In lieu whereof, I have only procured the Copy of General *Wall*'s Dispatch to the Conde *de Fuentes*: Your Lordship will there observe, that, in consequence of my repeated Instances, the *Spanish* Minister has directed M. *de Fuentes* to give an Answer to my Notes, to the King's Secretary of State, by Word of Mouth, or in Writing if it was necessary: since I could not compass all I was directed to require, at least it will not, I hope, be thought, that I have been remiss in the Performance of my Duty, after your Lordship recollects, the *Spanish* Ambassador had expressed his Wishes to have the Business conveyed through another Channel, rather than by himself, that, notwithstanding such a Reluctance in his Excellency to enter into this Affair, he receives Orders from his Court, to explain the Sentiments of *Spain* in Writing. Would those Sentiments had been more explicit, and more satisfactorily conformable to the Purport of my Instructions.

If your Lordship has taken the Trouble of looking over some of my Letters to Mr. *Pitt*, you will have seen the Motives I frequently had for delivering to the *Spanish* Minister written Notes, of what passed when our Meetings were long, and upon delicate or interesting Subjects, which I chose doing in that Manner for greater Precision, besides having so great a Certainty of the Catholick King's being minutely acquainted with every Argument I had made use of, to enforce the Validity of our Cause, at the same Time, that it was an Assistance to General *Wall*'s Memory, which his Excellency repeatedly told me, He did not chuse to confide in, without some Memorandums in Writing.

The Paper mark'd (A), is what I put into General *Wall*'s Hands, according to my former Custom, which is an Abstract of the most essential Parts of your Lordship's most secret Letter, and a summary Account of all I expatiated upon, more at large, in our several Conferences. The Two Inclosures, distinguished by the Letters B and C, are the Copy and Translation of M. *Wall*'s private Dispatch to the Conde *de Fuentes*, which is a *Precis* of all the *Spanish* Secretary of State alledged, either to confute my Reasonings, or to support his own Assertions.

I could not deny myself the Satisfaction, of reading to General *Wall*, by far the greater Part of your Lordship's most secret Dispatch; this Mark of Confidence I have frequently observed towards the *Spanish* Minister, when I have been left at Liberty with regard to the Mode of communicating any of my Orders, and, in the present Conjuncture, it would have been ill-timed in me to have withdrawn from his Excellency that Proof of my Trust in him, more especially as your Lordship had advised me most cautiously to avoid any Mark of offensive Diffidence; besides, I thought it could only do Honour to your Lordship's Sentiments and Stile, to point out to the *Spanish* Secretary of State, the conciliating Directions which  
you

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you had enjoined me to put in Practice, whilst I was urging any Matters, as you recommended their being done in the most polite and friendly Terms, as well as my insinuating gently those Arguments, which were suggested to me to advance.

I am, &amp;c.

BRISTOL.

*Translation of a Paper delivered the 18th Nov. 1761. (A).*

THE King has learnt, with particular Satisfaction, the Justice of His Catholick Majesty, in giving Orders for the Restitution of the Ship the *Speedwell*; and His Majesty is equally sensible of the Moderation, with which the Privateer the *King George* has been treated; The Count *de Fuentes* having given a Memorial, complaining of the Behaviour of the said Privateer, the most exact Enquiries are to be immediately begun, and, as soon as the Facts are proved, a suitable Satisfaction, agreeable to our Laws, will be given to the Court of *Spain*.

Having communicated to the Secretary of State, in a Dispatch of the Month of *September* last (agreeably to the Assurances I had then received) his Catholick Majesty's Intention to cultivate a good Correspondence with the King; I have been expressly ordered to testify the real Pleasure, which such a Declaration, of the Sentiments of this Court, has occasioned: And I must not omit to assure, that no Order has been sent for augmenting the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*, consequently they have only been working there on the usual Repairs.

His Majesty having nothing more at Heart, than to maintain and strengthen the most cordial, and the most sincere Friendship with the Catholick King, does not doubt of meeting with the same Dispositions as His, on the Part of *Spain*: For there is nothing more evident, than the mutual Advantage which must, at all Times, result to the Two Kingdoms by such a Reciprocity.

After this Declaration, it is not surprizing, that the Court of *London* desires and demands, of the *Spanish* Ministers, a Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between their Catholick and most Christian Majesties; or that they would impart the Articles which may be thought relative now, or in future, directly, or less immediately, to the Interests of *Great Britain*. These Instances do not proceed from any disadvantageous Suspicion of the Assurances of Friendship, so often repeated by *Spain* to the Court of *London*: They only tend to obtain some Explanation, with regard to the Language which the King's Enemies have affected to hold; namely, that *Spain* was on the Point of taking Part in the present War, by joining *France* against *England*. Such are the Reports which have made so rapid a Progress in all *Europe*; and the King's Honour is concerned in putting a Stop to them, as far as the Interests of  
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His People require their being contradicted; without which, How can His Majesty persuade himself to enter into a Negotiation with *Spain*, for accommodating the Differences which have unhappily subsisted, for so long Time, between the Two Courts? The Catholick King is informed of all the Alliances and Engagements of *Great Britain*; and it would be an unfriendly Reserve, at this Conjunction, not to comply with giving His Majesty this Satisfaction on the Contents of a Treaty, so recently signed with a Power actually at War with the King; and especially, when *France* does not cease to give out, that the Conditions of this new Engagement tend towards Hostilities which *Spain* will, very soon, manifest against the *British* Nation.

This Obstacle once removed, His Majesty is determined, without Loss of Time, to enter into an amicable Discussion of the Matters, which make the Subject of the Disputes of the Two Crowns; not at all doubting, but that they may be easily adjusted; and being convinced, that a reciprocal and extensive Confidence will not fail to suggest Expedients, for saving the Dignity, and the Honour, of the Two Kings, and for adjusting, to the reciprocal Satisfaction of their Majesties, every Thing that has, till now, retarded that solid and permanent Harmony, which has always been the Object, the Wishes, the Sollicitude, and the Desires, of those who wish the essential Advantages, and the true Glory, of the Two Monarchies.

In order to prevent every perverse Impression, which the Change that has just happened in the *English* Ministry might occasion, it is necessary to declare, that the most perfect Unanimity now reigns in the King's Councils; and that it is resolved there, to continue the War with all possible Vigour; His Majesty, however, only wishing for the Moment to put an End to the terrible Misfortunes, which are the inevitable Consequences of it, as soon as He shall find His Enemies disposed to make Peace, on Conditions which may correspond to the Successes with which Providence has been pleased to bless the King's Arms, and which shall, at the same Time, give Appearances of a solid and durable Peace, after all the Miseries which have been suffered during the Course of these last Years

*Paper received 3 Dec. 1761. Translation. (C)*

*Most Excellent SIR,*

MY Lord *Bristol* delivered to me, some Days ago, the Memorial, whereof I send you a Copy. In the first Paragraph is seen the Satisfaction of his Court at the King's Justice, in causing the *English* Ship the *Speedwell* to be restored; and at the Moderation with which the Offence of the *King George* Privateer had been chastized, to which there is nothing to reply, only, That his Majesty is glad that the Ministry acknowledge the Uprightness and Moderation of his Proceedings.

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In the Second Paragraph, my Lord *Bristol* sets forth, that, having wrote in *September* to his Court, the Intention he had been assured of by us, in which the King was, of cultivating a good Correspondence with the King of *Great Britain*, he had been ordered to declare the real Pleasure such a Declaration, from us, had given. I do not remember having made it then in a more particular Manner than at many other Times; nor do I comprehend the Motive for their making such a Point of it; However, it is certain, That in the various Occasions that have presented themselves, in the Life-time of King *Ferdinand* (who is in Heaven) as well as of the King our Lord (whom God save) the *Spanish* Ministers have repeated the Wishes of their Court, to cultivate the best Correspondence with that of *London*. My Lord adds, in the same Paragraph, That he can ascertain, that no Order has been transmitted for increasing the Fortifications of *Gibraltar*; which does not surprize the King, as he has given no Room for the least Mistrust; nor would the Contrary surprize him, the *English* being as much the Masters to increase them, as his Majesty is any one Place of his own.

My Lord *Bristol* continues, in another Paragraph, to express, That there is nothing the King, His Master, has so much at Heart, as to form a closer and more sincere Friendship with the King, our Lord; and that he does not doubt finding the same Dispositions on the Part of *Spain*; the mutual Advantages that will accrue to both Nations therefrom, being evident: And all this is in order to come, by Degrees, to what, after such a Declaration, was not to surprize us; that his Court should desire and ask of the *Spanish* Ministers, the Communication of the Treaty lately concluded between their Catholick and most Christian Majesties, or the Articles that relate to *England*. Your Excellency knows how easy it would be for the King to give a direct Answer; but his own Decorum prevents him, from the Consideration, that this Demand is made as a compulsive Condition for commencing a Negotiation with *Spain*, about Differences which are confessed to have subsisted so long\*. Who ever heard speak of commencing a Negotiation, would think that, hitherto, nothing had been negociated about our Differences; and besides, would believe, that their considering them as worthy of negotiating, was doing us a Favour.

It is a very singular Method in that Ministry of misunderstanding so many Offices, Memorials, and Conferences, which have passed for these Six Years thereupon, and particularly since the King sent your Excellency to that Court, proving the incontestible Grounds of our Complaints and just Cares, and repeating, that, without satisfying them, it is impossible to fix the good Correspondence of the Two Monarchies, nor the Friendship of the Two Monarchs, so deserving of each others Love. If all that has been declared by Word of Mouth, or in Writing, the Answers and Replies that have intervened, the Points that have been concluded upon, is not a Negotiation, I do not know what is called such.

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\* Sans quoi, comment S. M. pourroit elle se persuader à entamer une Negociation avec l'Espagne, &c.

My Lord *Bristol* offers, that, when the King our Lord should declare himself upon the Existence or Non-existence of the supposed Treaty, or upon the

† Cet Obstacle une fois levé S. M. est déterminée, Articles relating to the *English*, the King, his Master, † has determined to enter, without Loss of Time, into a friendly

Discussion of the Points which occasion our Differences; not doubting but that they may be accommodated, and Expedients found out, for saving the Dignity and Honour of the Two Sovereigns. In his Court they must consider only, as a mere Trifle, what they seek after; since, in Recompence, they only promise what we are already tired of practising. What greater Discussion upon the Points of our Disputes can be made, than that which has been in so long a Negotiation? What Expedients can be fallen upon now to save the Honour of the Two Kings, which, in Arguments and Disputes of Six Years, have not occurred? And if in *London* they are to be found, *Spain* is the Creditor for her Patience in the Pursuit of her Complaints, and for having seen the various Successes of the War the *English* were carrying on, whilst she only proposed, without offering to impose, Conditions upon that Account. The most noble Expedient, and which does the greatest Honour to Kings, as well as to those who are not so, is, not to withhold the Property of another unlawfully, but to restore, and even punish the Usurpers, without minding (if it falls out so) from whom the injured Person asks it.

My Lord *Bristol* concludes with a Paragraph entirely foreign to our Business, declaring, that a perfect Unanimity subsists in the Councils of *Great Britain*; and, that the King was resolved to continue the War with all possible Vigour, till he had reduced His Enemies to a Peace adequate to the Successes of the *English* Arms, and which might have the Appearance of being a firm and lasting one. It is not directly our Intention to answer thereto; but the Two Points which the *English* desire by the Peace, are contradicted evidently by what all the World has just seen. All impartial Persons can decide, whether the Terms offered by the *French*, and refused by the *English*, do not bespeak the Advantages of the *English* Arms; and their Inadmission will be attributed by them to other Views, which ought not to be indifferent to the other Maritime Powers, and Proprietors of Dominions beyond Sea. And it must occasion Surprize to them, that, if the Court of *London* desires a Peace, that wears the Appearances of being firm and lasting, it should pique itself upon that of *Paris*'s insinuating, how necessary it would be to adjust, at the same Time, our Differences, to cut off all Risk of its renewing the War in Favour of us.

My Lord *Bristol* then, by means of another Memorial, asked, if *France* had taken that Step with the King's Consent, in the same Manner he now asks us, Whether there is such a Treaty, or not, with *France*? We answer frankly, Yes; proving the Regularity of it: And with this Motive we reply to the repeated Expressions of that Court, about desiring a good Correspondence with ours, esteeming them as at all Times, however, thinking it was necessary, Effects should have accompanied them; and as if such a Memorial had never been

given by us, forgetting it entirely, they present us another, with a new Question, with the same general Expressions, and the unexpected Novelty of offering to commence a Negotiation so long discussed, and so well digested, that it has been reduced, during your Excellency's Embassy, to the last Yes, or last No.

Your Excellency, being thoroughly informed of every thing I have set forth, may tell it, or give it in Writing, if it is necessary, to that Ministry, in order that, upon no Account, it may charge us with leaving my Lord *Bristol*'s Memorial unanswered, and that it may acknowledge the Impropriety there is, that the King should satisfy their Curiosity at every Turn, whilst no Satisfaction is given to his just Demands.

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid, Dec. 7, 9, & 11, 1761. Received Jan. 9, 1762.

THE Messenger *Potter* arrived here the 5th Instant, at Night, whilst my Dispatches dated the 6th of this Month, together with their voluminous Inclosures, were transcribing fair, in the Expectation of the Whole being ready to be sent away from hence by *Ardouin* directly; but the very great Importance of your Lordship's Letters of the 19th past, determined me to suspend the Departure of a Messenger, till I had communicated their Contents to General *Wall*, upon whose Answer depended a Matter of the highest Consequence to both Crowns.

M. *Wall* was then confined to his Room, by an Accident which had happened to his Foot. Upon my writing a Note to his Excellency the 6th, early in the Morning, acquainting him with the Arrival of a Messenger from *England*, he appointed me to go to him at any Time after the Noon of that Day. As soon as the Catholick King's Court was over, I went to the *Spanish* Minister's, which was about 1 o'Clock. I began directly, by telling his Excellency, that the great Surprize and Sorrow he must have observed in me at the *Escorial*, after that memorable Conversation we had together, several Particulars of which I reminded him of, had occasioned equal Astonishment and Concern in *England*; and, for that Reason, fresh Instructions had been transmitted to me, without even waiting for my Answer to your Lordship's Dispatches of the 28th of *October*. I did not attempt to disguise the Alarm his Excellency's Discourse had raised at my Court, which, as it was my Duty, I had related immediately after it had been held to me, as nearly as I could recollect, in the Phrases he had made use of, saying, That such an unprovoked Transition in his Language, so diametrically opposite to the pleasing Assurances I had received at *St. Ildephonso*, of the Catholick King's Resolution to cultivate the closest Correspondence with His Majesty, had filled the *English* Ministry with

Amaze; and more particularly so, as the Count of *Fuentes* had lately called your Lordship aside, to acquaint you, that he had given strong Assurances of the friendly Disposition of the King his Master, and of his steady Purpose to maintain the strictest Amity with *Great Britain*, at an Audience to which his Excellency had been admitted to deliver a Letter from the Catholick King to His Majesty.

Yet the King, religiously observant of all His solemn Declarations, and equally attentive to His Own Dignity, as well as to the Interests of His Subjects, was determined coolly and firmly to acquit Himself of those indispensable Duties.

I then went thro' the several Topicks contained in your Lordship's Letter, by expatiating very amply on the Injustice that *Spain* did to the Purity of the King's Intentions; since His Majesty had been particularly delicate in causing such Military Plans to be concerted, as might avoid Hostilities towards those Objects that could give the least Umbrage to the Catholick King. I dwelt upon the Notoriety there was, that every thing in the Royal Councils, which could tend towards the Interruption of a friendly Intelligence between our Courts (which His Majesty was so solicitous to maintain) had also been avoided. Then I proceeded to renew my former Inquiries about the Treaty lately concluded between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Verfailles*; and, finally, to ask a categorical Answer relative to *Spain's* Intention, with regard to *Great Britain*, in this critical Conjuncture, which the King found Himself under the disagreeable Necessity of demanding; but I added, immediately after, that I was certain, and would venture to declare, that there was nothing could more essentially contribute to His Majesty's real Satisfaction, than my being able to procure such an Answer from hence, as might contribute to the Continuation of that amicable Intercourse, which it could not be more the Interests of both Courts to uphold, that it was the King's sincere Desire to cultivate: Before I discontinued, I took particular Care to be explicit with regard to His Majesty's Sentiments, which were to be only attributed to the Rectitude of His Royal Mind; And the Declaration I made of the King's Moderation, was accompanied with the fullest Assurances that could be given, to prevent any false or injurious Interpretation, construing what I had advanced, concerning the King's Desire of maintaining Peace with *Spain* (provided that Desire was reciprocal on his Catholick Majesty's Part) to proceed from any Timidity or Apprehension on the King's Side.

It was not possible to listen with a more obliging Attention, than *M. Wall* did, to all I have just mentioned. He never interrupted me, but answered me friendlyly, when I appealed to him upon any Point. Your Lordship will, no doubt, observe, how much I have here waved touching upon any Subject that could be laid hold of as offensive, or that might even collaterally tend to irritate the *Spanish* Minister, according to what was prescribed to me; which was, to avoid mixing any Thing in my Conversation, which could have

have a Tendency to indispose General *Wall*. Indeed I must do his Excellency the Justice to say, there never appeared the smallest Degree of Warmth, or the least Inclination towards any Harshness, during our whole Conference. He reasoned candidly with me, and minutely; He said, the *Spanish* Ambassador had Orders to make the Professions of the Catholick King's Friendship towards His Majesty, which he had accompanied with the Letter he presented: He owned how cautious we had been, to avoid attacking those Possessions belonging to our Enemies, which had any Connections with the *Spanish* Territory; and agreed with me, concerning the Publicity of what had passed in His Majesty's Councils, upon the Change of the *English* Ministry; not forgetting to mention what had given Rise to the late Resignation of the Seals. *M. Wall* then said, the Copy he had delivered to me, of his own Dispatch, to the Count of *Fuentes*, was the only Answer he could give to my Enquiries about the Treaty; That, as to the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *Great Britain*, which I then pressed to be informed of, he added, I must be sensible, it was not in his Power to give an immediate Answer, from not being sufficiently authorized to do it, but promised that he would acquaint his Catholick Majesty with my fresh Solicitations, and would not fail communicating, faithfully, all I had expressed, concerning the King's Sentiments and Disposition.

As I had taken some Notes (from which I spoke) that I might omit nothing I had determined to mention; the *Spanish* Secretary of State asked me, whether I would consent to his transcribing them, for greater Accuracy, when he was to impart to his Catholick Majesty, the very important and delicate Conference we had had together; I directly gave his Excellency a Copy of the Paper herein inclosed, marked (A) which he promised should be literally translated into *Spanish*, before it was presented to the King of *Spain*.

You will, perhaps, my Lord, be surpris'd to find, I have, in this Visit, only dwelt in general Terms, concerning the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *England*: I beg of you to suspend forming any Judgement about my Conduct therein, till I have explained my Motive for acting in that Manner. I perceived General *Wall's* Tone to be of so conciliating a Nature; he expressed his Wishes so strongly, that some Method might be found out for an amicable Adjustment of our Differences; and was so far from dropping the least Word, that could make me imagine *Spain* intended to act hostilely against us, that I began to flatter myself, I might obtain the categorical Answer I was ordered to demand, without the *Spanish* Minister's suspecting my ultimate Orders. When I was going out of his Room, he took me by the Hand, and said, with a Smile, he hoped; but there he stopped. I asked him what he hoped, that I might also hope, and that all might concur in the same Hopes: But his Excellency only then bowed, and took his Leave of me.



Your Lordship will, no doubt, have remarked, that, from the Time of *Potter's* Departure with my Dispatches of the 2d past, the Stile of the *Spanish* Minister has been softening gradually. What had occasioned the great Fermentation during that Period at this Court, the Effects of which, I felt from General *Wall's* animated Discourse at the Escorial, was, the Notice having, about that Time, reached the Catholick King, that the Change which had happened in the *English* Administration, was relative to Measures proposed to be taken against this Country: Hence arose that sudden Wrath and Passion, which, for a short Time, affected the whole *Spanish* Court; as it was thought most extraordinary here, that the declaring War against the Catholick King, should ever have been moved in His Majesty's Councils, since the *Spaniards* have always looked upon themselves as the aggrieved Party; and, of course, never could imagine, that the *English* would be the First to begin a War with them.

Dec. 9.

I received, late in the Evening of the 7th, a Note from M. *Wall*, desiring me to return to him on the next Morning, the 8th; which I punctually complied with. His Excellency said, he had not been able to stir out; but, having received his Catholick Majesty's Commands in relation to our Conference on the 6th, he would not delay communicating them to me. They consisted in the King of *Spain's* being sensible of all the Assurances of Friendship, and Marks of Attention, which had been conveyed thro' my Means: But I was to be informed, That, with regard to the Treaty, and the Intentions of *Spain*, M. *Wall's* Dispatch to the Count of *Fuentes* (Copy of which had been delivered to me) was the only Answer the Catholick King judged it expedient to give. I pressed the *Spanish* Minister to open himself more fully upon this most important Subject; as I thought it impossible so concise an Answer could be given to all I had urged to his Excellency.

Unfortunately, General *Wall* had not been able to see his Catholick Majesty; and, therefore, having only wrote, and received a written Answer, that accounted, in some Measure, for it's being so laconick.

I then reminded the *Spanish* Minister of the pressing Endeavours I had employed at our last Meeting, to obtain a satisfactory Answer; alledging, that, as I had not been able to obtain a Communication of the Treaty, nor the Alternative which I had proposed, I was now necessitated to come to a more particular Explanation of what I had mentioned in general concerning *Spain's* Intention with regard to *Great Britain*; therefore I was commanded to declare to his Excellency, that my Court expected to have a categorical Answer to the following Questions; Whether the Catholick King intended to join the *French*, our Enemies, or purposed acting hostilely? or would, in any Manner, depart from his Neutrality? adding, That *Spain's* refusing to comply with giving this Satisfaction, would be deemed an Aggression on the Part of the Court of *Madrid*, and a Declaration of War.

I cannot

I cannot describe the Surprise M. *Wall* expressed at hearing this. He only brought out these Words: What is to follow? You have then Orders to withdraw from hence. I told him, he must easily imagine what would ensue, if *Spain* did not disavow any Intentions to take Part with our declared Enemies; for I was ordered to signify, That such a Refusal would be looked upon, by His Majesty, in no other Light, than as an absolute Declaration of War.

He told me, the categorical Answer I was ordered to require, was such an Attack upon the Catholick King's Dignity, that it was impossible for him to give any Advice to his Sovereign upon so delicate a Subject; which Dignity could not be imagined to be less dear to Kings, than a common Decorum was to Subjects: He afterwards mentioned writing to his Catholick Majesty what had passed between us, and conveying the Substance of my Instructions in that Manner, as he was not able to go himself, and relate them verbally. You may be assured, my Lord, I remonstrated strongly against his staying in his Chair at home, and his not going in Person to offer his Advice, and to declare his Opinion, in Words, when it must be so much wanted. I entreated his Excellency to reflect, that the Lives of Thousands, the Ruin of Thousands of Thousands, and the Distresses of whole Nations, were now depending upon the final Resolution of the *Spanish* Councils; for as I had conferred with no other Minister than himself, where were those, who could be supposed to be able to make a faithful Report, or lay the proper Stress, and repeat all the Arguments, I had been ordered to employ, to shew the Expediency and the Necessity of such an Answer as I had required, if any such Persons could be found willing to undertake it. I urged to the *Spanish* Minister, the absolute Necessity of his being carried out, at all Events, to the *Buen Retiro*, and there to set forth the fatal Consequences that must inevitably attend *Spain's* not giving me a precise Answer: Besides, I enforced to M. *Wall*, all that the World would infer, whatever his Friends must think, or his Enemies would say, upon his staying in his own House, and only writing to his Catholick Majesty, where the Fate of so many Countries were involved in the Decision of the present Affair: I recommended to him, for the Sake of Humanity in general, not to let any rash or precipitated Measure be taken; but, after duly weighing the infinite Importance of these Questions, to let me receive such Answers, as might enable the Two Crowns to continue a mutual friendly Intercourse, unallayed by Suspicions, and totally clear of all Doubts. General *Wall*, for greater Precision, desired me to put into Writing what I was ordered to demand: I took his Pen, and wrote down the short Sentences I inclose a Copy of, indorsed (B).

Dec. 11, 1761.

As I knew, General *Wall* was not able to stir from off his Chair, till Yesterday the 10th, that he went to the Palace of the *Buen Retiro*, and held the accustomed *Despacho*, in the Presence of his Catholick Majesty; it was in vain for

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me to press for an Answer, which was not in his Power to give, without receiving the King of *Spain's* Commands.

At Eleven o'Clock last Night, I received Two Letters from his Excellency; Those marked 1, and 2, are the Copy and Translation of the Office; that which is numbered 3, is the Copy of a private Note, entirely in General *Wall's* own Hand, to which I sent an Answer immediately, Copy whereof is distinguished by the Number 4.

It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the Decision of this most important Affair; besides, that I shall be able, at my Return to *England*, to relate minutely to your Lordship, many Circumstances too tedious to be inserted in a Letter.

*M. Wall*, the last Time I saw him, said so much, concerning the Catholick King's very particular Partiality towards me, that I thought it could not be amiss in me, to take the last Opportunity, which was likely to present itself, of testifying the Impression his Catholick Majesty's Sentiments about me, had made upon my Mind.

Notwithstanding, I have been, and still continue, indisposed, I propose setting out as soon as it is possible; but those, who are unacquainted with *Spain*, can have no Idea of the Difficulties attending a Journey from hence.

I beg your Lordship to believe, that I have exerted my utmost Efforts for His Majesty's Service, and the Welfare of my Country, since I have had the Honour of being employed here. Nothing is left for me now to add, but to lament my sincere Endeavours to preserve a Union between the Two Crowns, having been so unsuccessful. God send Prosperity to the King's righteous Cause; And may *Great Britain*, in the Course of the ensuing War, prove, that the combined Forces of *Spain* and *France* are not sufficient to eclipse her Glory, or to cope with her Strength.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

*Copy of Notes given to General Wall, at our first Conference, Sunday the 6th Dec. 1761. (A)*

COUNT of *Fuentes* accompanied the Catholick King's Letter to His Majesty, with the strongest Professions of Friendship from *Spain*.

The King's particular Delicacy in concerting Military Plans, to avoid Hostilities towards Objects that could give Umbrage to his Catholick Majesty.

How

How notorious it was, That every thing in the King's Councils, which could tend to break through a good Understanding between our Courts (which His Majesty is so anxious to preserve) had been avoided.

An Answer concerning the Treaty; as well as to know the Intention of *Spain*, with regard to *Great Britain*.

Nothing could more essentially give a real Satisfaction to His Majesty, than my procuring such an Answer, as might contribute to the Continuation of that friendly Intercourse, which it is not more the Interest of both Crowns to maintain, than it is the King's sincere Desire to cultivate.

*Copy of Notes wrote down in General Wall's Closet, and given by me to his Excellency, at our Second Conference, Tuesday the 8th Dec. 1761. (B.)*

Whether the Court of *Madrid* intends to join the *French*, our Enemies, to act hostilely against *Great Britain*, or to depart in any Manner from its Neutrality?

A categorical Answer is expected to those Questions; otherwise, a Refusal to comply, will be looked upon as an Aggression on the Part of *Spain*, and a Declaration of War.

*General Wall, B. Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761. Translation (2)*

Most Excellent Lord;

My LORD,

YOUR Excellency having expressed to me the Day before Yesterday, and being even pleased to put in Writing, that you had Orders to ask a positive and categorical Answer to the Question, If *Spain* thought of joining herself with *France* against *England*? declaring, at the same Time, that you should look upon the Refusal as a Declaration of War; and that you would, in consequence, leave this Court: The Spirit of Haughtiness, and of Discord, which dictated this inconsiderate Step, and which, for the Misfortune of Mankind, still reigns so much in the *British* Government, is what made, in the same Instant, the Declaration of War, and attacked the King's Dignity. Your Excellency may think of retiring when, and in the Manner is convenient to you; which is the only Answer that, without detaining you, his Majesty has ordered me to give you. The Indisposition your Excellency saw me in, scarce permitted me to go to receive the King's Commands.

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May your Excellency carry away with you all the Happiness which correspond to your personal Qualities, and the constant Remembrance of the sincere Affection with which I am, praying God for the long Preservation of your Life,

*Buen Retiro, 10 Dec. 1761.*

Most Excellent Lord,

I kiss your Excellency's Hand,

Your obedient Servant,

D. RICARDO WALL.

*General Wall, Madrid, 10 Dec. 1761. (3) Translation.*

My LORD,

MY Uneasiness, ever since the Moment that your Excellency communicated to me the Orders which you have received from your Court, has not permitted me to delay any longer your Excellency's Instances, full of Attention; and I have been (notwithstanding my Indisposition) to give an Account to the King my Master, of the last Questions which you have been ordered to put to my Court.

Your Excellency will see, by the inclosed Letter, what are his Majesty's Sentiments; you know mine for your Person. I hope to have the Honour of seeing you, and confirming to you again, by Word of Mouth, the Esteem and Respect with which I am perfectly,

My LORD,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

and most humble Servant,

WALL.

To

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*To General Wall, Madrid, Dec. 10, 1761. Eleven o'Clock at Night. (4) Translation.*

SIR,

I Have just received your Excellency's Letter, dated to-day, with that which was therewith inclosed. No One can be more sensible than I am of the Sentiments with which his Catholick Majesty honours me. Receive, Sir, my Acknowledgement for those which you express for me. I desire your Excellency to cause the Catholick King's Pass-ports to be prepared for me, in order that I may take the Route of *Portugal*, in consequence of the Instructions which I have received from my Court to retire from hence. I have the Honour to be, with much Respect,

SIR,

Your Excellency's most humble

and most obedient Servant,

BRISTOL.

*Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid, Dec. 11, 1761. Received Jan. 9, 1762. Most Secret.*

My LORD,

HAVING answered, in my publick Letter of this Date, so exactly, to all that is contained in your Lordship's most secret one; I only write these few Words to acknowledge it, and to mention, that if I had only signified to the *Spanish* Minister the King's Commands (that a peremptory Refusal to give Satisfaction, in relation to the categorical Answer; or that the not dis-avowing any Intentions to take Part with our declared Enemies in the present War, would be looked upon by His Majesty as an Aggression on the Part of *Spain*, and an absolute Declaration of War) without, at least, not denying what would be the Consequence of *Spain's* not giving the Answer required; I mean my withdrawing myself from hence; I had reason to apprehend, that, had I waited to make known that Resolution till after General *Wall* had seen his Catholick Majesty, I might have received an Order to go away from hence; whereas, now it is known I had been first commanded by my own Court to take that Step.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Madrid, December 11, 1761. Separate and Secret. Received January 9, 1762.

My LORD,

I N obedience to the King's Commands, I took the earliest Opportunity, after *Potter's* Arrival, of writing to Sir *Charles Saunders*, to Major General *Parflow* at *Gibraltar*, and to all His Majesty's Consuls in *Spain*, as well as to Mr. *Hay*, that he might give the same Notice, to those who are in *Portugal*, in order, that every one might put himself, and His Majesty's Trading Subjects, properly on their Guard, on account of the critical Situation, in which our Court then stood with regard to *Spain*.

I have in vain asked Leave, to dispatch a Messenger for *Lisbon*, to obtain Passports from the Court of *Portugal* for myself, as was practised by Sir *Benjamin Keene*, for his Journey, when he left *Madrid* in the Year 1739. The Order for Post Horses has been refused me; otherwise, I had prepared the several Letters His Majesty had commanded me to write to Commodore *Keppel*, to Sir *Charles Saunders*, and Major General *Parflow*. My House is so surrounded with Spies; I am so much watched myself; and such strict Orders are given to stop every one going from *Madrid*; that even if a Person would consent to go on this Errand, I could not trust him; yet, I hope, a Method I have caused to be taken will convey the Intelligence to *Gibraltar*, and from thence it may soon reach Sir *Charles Saunders*.

It is not in my Power, nor could it be for the Service of His Majesty, for me to set out so soon as I wish to do, in obedience to the King's Orders; I am, and have been for some Time, so much out of Order with a Return of my former Pains, that, were I to begin my Journey immediately, I should be confined in my Bed, in some Village near *Madrid*, without a Possibility of continuing my Rout; therefore, as my Constitution has already suffered so much by this Climate, I hope the King's Clemency will pardon my not endangering it. As soon as it is possible, I will not delay my Departure, for which I am so very impatient.

I shall not venture sending away this large Packet, of my several different dated Dispatches, till I am out of the *Spanish* Dominions, lest any Accident should happen to the Bearer of them; but, I shall directly cause them to be sealed up, so that they will be ready to be forwarded at all Times.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

Copy of a Letter from the Earl of Bristol to the Earl of Egremont, dated Elvas in Portugal, Dec. 26, 1761. Received January 9th, 1762.

My LORD,

I Left *Madrid* as soon as it was possible for me to get together what was necessary for a Journey in *Spain*, which is so unlike every other Country in *Europe* for Travelling. I received General *Wall's* final Answer the 10th Instant, at Eleven o'Clock at Night; and I set out in the Morning of the 17th, with a Fever upon me, which I had had at least Ten Days; but, as the Pains in my Stomach had diminished, I determined to begin my Journey, let what would be the Consequence of it.

The *Spanish* Minister refused letting me have an Order for Post-horses, till I reached *Badajoz*, the last Town in *Spain*; altho' I asked for it, to send a Messenger to *Lisbon*, for Passports from his most Faithful Majesty, that I might not be detained upon the Frontiers of *Portugal*.

I now deliver to the Messenger *Ardouin*, those Dispatches I was preparing to send your Lordship, even before the Arrival of *Potter*, as well as the Letters which contain the full Account of the present Rupture between *Great Britain* and *Spain*; and I shall write to Mr. *Hay*, to cause a Pacquet-boat to sail directly with the Messenger, as soon as he reaches *Lisbon*.

I am, &c.

BRISTOL.

F I N I S.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF THE  
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
FOR THE YEAR 1964

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
1965