

to be made to the King of Spain, of these violent and unjust Proceedings, but no Satisfaction or Redress has been given for the same, notwithstanding the many Promises made, and *Cédulas* issued, signed by the said King, or by his Order, for that purpose: And Whereas the *Edicts* above mentioned have been principally occasioned by an unwarrantable Claim & Pretension, set up on the Part of Spain, that the *Gallega* *Cartas*, and other Ships, authorized by the King of Spain, may stop, detain and search the Ships and Vessels of Our Subjects navigating in the American Seas, contrary to the Liberty of Navigation, to which Our Subjects have not only an equal Right, with those of the King of Spain, by the Law of Nations, but which is moreover expressly acknowledged and declared to belong to them by the most solemn Treaties, and particularly by that concluded in the Year 1670: And Whereas the said groundless Claim and Pretension, and the unjust Practice of stopping, detaining, and searching Ships and Vessels navigating in the Seas of America, is not only of the most dangerous and destructive Consequence to the lawful Commerce of Our Subjects, but also tends to interrupt and obstruct the free Intercourse and Correspondence between Our Dominions in Europe, and Our Colonies and Plantations in America, and by Means thereof to deprive Us and Our Subjects of the Benefit of those Colonies & Plantations; a Consideration of the highest Importance to Us & Our Kingdoms; and a Practice which must affect, in its Consequence, all other Princes and States of Europe, possessed of Settlements in the West Indies, or whose Subjects carry on any Trade thither: And whereas, besides the notorious Grounds of Complaint above mentioned, many other Infractions have been made on the Part of Spain, of the several Treaties and Conventions subsisting between Us and that Crown, and particularly of that concluded in the Year 1667, as well by the exorbitant Duties and Impositions laid upon the Trade and Commerce of Our Subjects, as by the Breach of ancient and established Privileges, stipulated for them by the said Treaties; for the Redress of which Grievances the strongest Instances have been, from time to time made, by Our several Ministers residing in Spain, without any Effect: And Whereas a Provision for making Reparation to Our

Subjects