I cannot at the most serious, as well as most painful moment of my life, go out of this great assembly without communicating to you my intentions not asking your advice.

The first time I appeared as your sovereign in this place now above twenty-two years I had the pleasing hope that being born among you, I might have proved the happy instrument of conciliating all parties and thus collecting to the service of the state the most respectable and most able persons this kingdom produced. If this object I have never lost sight of, though sad experience now teaches me that selfish views were too prevalent that they have smothered the spirit of public virtue, attachments to the country which ought to warm the breast of every individual who enjoys the advantages of this excellent constitution, and the want of which, sentiment has prevented that unanimity which must have rendered Britain invincible, though attacked by the most powerful combinations.

My own inclination to alleviate the distresses of my people, added to the change of sentiments of one branch of the legislature which I rendered the real object of the war impracticable, made me undertake the
the arduous task of obtaining the Blessings of Peace, rendered indeed more difficult by the Resolution above alluded to. I cannot sufficiently acknowledge the candour with which the Courts of France and Spain have conducted themselves during the Negotiation of the Preliminary Articles, which greatly accelerated their desirable Work.

Circumstances have since arisen that might make those Courts more doubtful of the Stability of the Councils of this Country in forming the Definitive Treaties. I have therefore again attempted to confer with the most efficient Men of all Parties that under my Inspection I could classify of Peace or might be proved on forming the definitive Treaties, speedily and effectually concluded. But this Patriotic attempt has proved unsuccessful by the obstinacy of a powerful party that has long publicly manifested a resolution not to aid in the service of the Empire, unless the whole executive management of this country was put in my hands. The exclusion of all gentlemen of this country, and the opposition is known to you, with its justice, as it has not been on a new declared, any assistance, but a refusal on this occasion, decided, it has been time to give my ambition a view, and the want of Lord, prevents your present standing forth with critical conjurement to become the tool of a party, neither my Duty to the Nation, held among you my brevity past my exceeding the powers of justice, one of neglecting to be a Cypher in these matters.
of my self created band, nor to my own Character will permit.

I must therefore to end a conflict which certainly put a stop to every wheel of Government, make a final Decision, and that I think my self compelled to do in this Assembly of the whole Legislature.

Long experience and a serious attention to the strange events that have successively arisen, has gradually prepared my mind to expect the time when I should be no longer of Utility to this Country. That time is now come, I am therefore resolved to resign my Crown and all the Dominions appertaining to it to the Prince of Wales, my eldest Son and Lawful Inheritor, and to retire to the care of my Electoral Dominions, the original Patrimony of my Ancestors. For which purpose I shall draw up and sign an Instrument to which I shall affix my Private Seal. I trust this Personal Sacrifice will awaken the various parties to a sense of their Duty and that they will join in the Support and Assistance of the Young Successor.

You may depend on my ardent attention, to Educate my other Children in the Paths of Religion, Virtue and every other good Principle, that may render them...
if ever called in any Line to the Service of Great Britain, not unworthy of the kindness they may hereafter meet with from a People whom Collectives shall ever Love.

May that All Wise Providence who can direct the inmost thoughts as well as actions of Men give My Son and Successor not only every assistance in guiding his Conduct but restore that Sense of Religious and Moral Duties in this Kingdom to the want of which every Evil that has arisen owes its Source and may I to the latest hour of my Life, though now resolved forever to quit this Island, have the Comfort of knowing that the Endeavours of My Son though they cannot be more sincere than Mine have been for the Prosperity of Great Britain may be Crowned with better Success.