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Spain joins forces with France in the War of Polish Succession. Their object: Italy. Their fear: that Great Britain might enter the arena

1733

'London, 20th November, 1733.

On the 17th day of this month, our government was in receipt of a despatch from Mr Keene, His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid, in which it was reported that His Catholic Majesty had resolved to join forces with France to wage war on the Emperor. That same day there came another by special messenger for the Count of Montijo, Spanish Ambassador at this Court, and, two days since, this Minister sought an audience with the King and laid before Him a detailed exposition of the factors which have lead His Sovereign to take up arms against the Emperor, at the same time expressing . . . heart-felt gratitude for the pains and troubles His (Britannic) Majesty has taken in settling the differences with the Viennese Court with respect to the claims of His Majesty Prince Carlos,* sympathising with Him that the arrogance of that court should have proved an insuperable obstacle to their success, and assuring His Majesty that nothing is closer to the heart of his Master, the Catholic King, than that good understanding with His Majesty and all the British Nation should continue undiminished.'

(*Gaceta de Madrid*, 15 December 1733.)

* Carlos, son of Felipe V by his second marriage with Isabel Farnese.