



The Edinburgh Gazette.

published by Authority.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1888.

Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, delivered by the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Monday, December 24, 1888.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE great satisfaction in being able to release you from your protracted labours.

My relations with all Foreign Powers continue to be friendly.

I regret that the Convention which was concluded between myself and the President of the United States for the adjustment of the questions which had arisen in reference to the Fisheries in North American waters has not commended itself to the judgment of the Senate of the United States, in whom, according to the Constitution of that country, the power of ratification is vested. The temporary arrangements, however, which have been adopted will, I trust, prevent any immediate inconvenience arising from this decision.

The Conference which has been held on the subject of Bounties upon the exportation of Sugar has been brought to a satisfactory issue by the conclusion of a Convention for their abolition, which has been signed by the Representatives of most of the sugar-producing countries.

The restoration of Egypt to a condition of political and financial security has been for the time interrupted by an attempt on the part of the Soudanese to possess themselves of the Port of Suakin. The dispersion of the besieging forces has been effected by a brilliant military operation on the part of the Egyptian troops, supported by a British contingent. In other respects, the

administrative and economical progress of Egypt has been satisfactory.

An insurrection has broken out upon the continental portion of the dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, which has brought with it considerable destruction of life and property in the German Settlements on that coast. It is evident that the renewed vigour of the Slave Trade, of which symptoms have unhappily shown themselves in several parts of Africa, has largely contributed to the production of these disturbances. I have joined with the Emperor of Germany in establishing a naval blockade of that part of the coast which is in insurrection, in order to prevent not only the exportation of slaves, but also the importation of munitions of war.

My Indian dominions have enjoyed general tranquillity and prosperity during the past year. Disturbances, however, have occurred in the neighbouring region of the Black Mountain, and on the extreme frontier of Sikkim; but they have been terminated without difficulty. A rebellion which broke out in Afghanistan under Ishak Khan, and which at one time threatened to assume formidable proportions, has been entirely subdued by the military forces of the Ameer.

A rising on the part of some Zulu Chiefs, which does not seem to have met with any sympathy on the part of the population, has been suppressed by my troops and the native levies; and the Chiefs concerned in it are awaiting their trial before a Special Commission.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the liberal provision which you