

have taken place of late years have not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the National income. The revenue of the past year has been fully adequate to the demands of the public service, while the reduction of taxation has tended greatly to the relief and comfort of My subjects.

I acknowledge with thankfulness to Almighty God that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws, continue to prevail generally throughout the Country.

It appears to Me that this is a fitting time for calmly considering whether it may not be advisable to make such amendments in the Act of the late reign relating to the representation of the Commons in Parliament as may be deemed calculated to carry into more complete effect the principles upon which that law is founded.

I have the fullest confidence that in any such consideration you will firmly adhere to the acknowledged principles of the Constitution, by which the prerogatives of the Crown, the authority of both Houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the People are equally secured.

At the Court at Buckingham-Palace, the 2d
day of February 1852,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Report from the General Board of Health, dated the tenth day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, in the words following; that is to say:—

“To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

“We, the General Board of Health, appointed for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1848 have, in pursuance of the provisions of that Act, upon the Petition of not less than one-tenth of the inhabitants rated to the relief of the poor of and within the parish of Witham, in the county of Essex (the number of the said petitioners greatly exceeding thirty in the whole), directed Edward Cresy, a Superintending Inspector appointed for the purposes of the said Public Health Act, to visit the said parish, and to make public inquiry, and to examine witnesses as to the sewerage, drainage, and supply of water, the state of the burial-grounds, the number and sanitary condition of the inhabitants, and as to any local Acts of Parliament in force within such parish, for paving, lighting, cleansing, watching, regulating, supplying with water, or improving the said parish, or having relation to the purposes of the said Public Health Act; also as to the natural drainage areas, and the existing municipal, parochial, or other local boundaries, and the boundaries which might be most advantageously adopted for the purposes of that Act;

“And the said Superintending Inspector having previously given the notices directed by the said Public Health Act, proceeded upon the said inquiry in the manner directed by that Act, and hath reported in writing to the said Board upon the said several matters with respect to which he was directed to inquire, and upon certain other matters with respect to which he deemed it expedient to report for the purposes of that Act;

“And copies of the said Report, accompanied by a notice stating that written statements might be forwarded to the said Board with respect to any

matter contained in or omitted from the said Report, or any amendment proposed to be made therein, have been duly published and deposited as directed by the said Public Health Act, and the time for forwarding such statements has now elapsed;

“And it appears by the said Report that there is no local Act of Parliament in force within the said parish, for paving, lighting, (otherwise than for the profit of proprietors or shareholders), cleansing, watching, regulating, supplying with water, or improving such parish, or any part thereof, or in anywise relating to the purposes of the said Public Health Act;

“Now therefore, We, the said General Board of Health, do hereby, in pursuance of the Public Health Act, humbly report to your Majesty that it appears to us to be expedient—

“1. That the Public Health Act, 1848, and every part thereof, except the section numbered 50 in the copies of that Act, printed by your Majesty's printers, should be applied to and be in force within and throughout the entire area, places, and parts of places comprised within the boundaries of the said parish of Witham, in the county of Essex, and that such area, places, and parts of places should be and constitute a district for the purpose of the said Public Health Act accordingly.

“2. That the Local Board of Health to be elected under the Public Health Act should consist of nine persons, and that the entire number should be elected for the whole of the said district.

“3. That the first election of the said Local Board of Health should take place on the fifth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two.

“4. That one-third in number of the said Local Board of Health should go out of office on the thirty-first day of March in each year subsequently to that in which the said first election of that Local Board takes place; but in case the day so appointed should fall on a Sunday, or on a day appointed for public fast or thanksgiving, then that such one-third should go out of office on the day next following.

“5. That every person at the time of his election as member of the said Local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election, be resident, as in the said Public Health Act, 1848, is required, and be seized or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value or amount of not less than five hundred pounds, or should be so resident, and rated to the relief of the poor of some parish, township, or place, of which some part is within the said district, upon an annual value of not less than twenty pounds.

“6. That at the first election of the said Local Board, the Reverend John Bramston, Vicar of Witham aforesaid, should have the powers and perform the duties vested in or imposed upon the Chairman of the Local Board of Health by the Public Health Act, 1848, in relation to the election by owners of property and ratepayers, and should perform all other duties which it may be requisite for him to perform in conducting and completing the said first election; and in case the said John Bramston, from illness or other sufficient cause, should be unable to exercise or discharge such powers or duties, or should be absent, or should refuse to act, then that Jacob Howell Pattisson, Esquire, Solicitor, of Witham aforesaid, should exercise and perform such of the said powers and duties as then remain to be exercised or performed.

