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BUCKINGHAM-PALACE, July 1, 1852.

**T**HIS day Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Prince Albert, proceeded in State from Buckingham-Palace to the House of Peers, where she arrived soon after two o'clock, and delivered the following most gracious **SPEECH** to both Houses of Parliament :—

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

I AM induced by considerations of public policy to release you at an earlier period than usual from your Legislative duties.

The zeal and diligence, however, with which you have applied yourselves to your Parliamentary labours, have enabled Me, in this comparatively short Session, to give My assent to many measures of high importance, and, I trust, of great and permanent advantage.

I receive from all Foreign Powers assurances that they are animated by the most friendly dispositions towards this Country, and I entertain a confident hope that the amicable relations happily subsisting between the principal European States may be so firmly established, as, under Divine Providence, to secure to the World a long continuance of the blessings of peace.

To this great end My attention will be unremittingly directed.

I rejoice that the final settlement of the affairs of Holstein and Schleswig, by the general concurrence of the Powers chiefly interested, has removed one cause of recent difference, and of future anxiety.

The amicable termination of the discussions which have taken place between the Sublime Porte and the Pacha of Egypt afford a guarantee for the tranquillity of the East, and an encouragement to the extension of commercial enterprise.

The refusal on the part of the King of Ava, of redress justly demanded for insults and injuries offered to My Subjects at Rangoon, has necessarily led to an interruption of friendly relations with that Sovereign.

The promptitude and vigour with which the Governor-General of India has taken the measures thus rendered unavoidable, have merited My entire approbation ; and I am confident, that you will participate in the satisfaction with which I have observed the conduct of the naval and military forces—European and Indian—by whose valour and discipline the important captures of Rangoon and Martaban have been accomplished, and in the hope

that I entertain that these signal successes in so many cases may lead to an early and an honourable peace.

Treaties have been concluded by My naval Commanders with the King of Dahomey, and all the African Chiefs whose rule extends along the Bight of Benin, for the total abolition of the slave-trade, which is at present wholly suppressed upon that coast.

I have had great satisfaction in giving My assent to the measure which you have wisely adopted for the better organization of the Militia—a Constitutional Force which, being limited to purposes of internal defence, can afford no just ground of jealousy to neighbouring Powers, but which, in the event of any sudden and unforeseen disturbance of My Foreign relations, would at all times contribute essentially to the protection and security of My Dominions.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the exigencies of the public service.

The expenditure which you have authorised shall be applied with a due regard to economy and efficiency.

The recent discoveries of extensive gold fields have produced in the Australian Colonies a temporary disturbance of society, requiring prompt attention. I have taken such steps as appeared to Me most urgently necessary for the mitigation of this serious evil. I shall continue anxiously to watch the important results which must follow from these discoveries.

I have willingly concurred with you in an Act, which, by rendering available to the service of those Colonies the portion arising within them of the hereditary revenue placed at the disposal of Parliament on My accession to the Throne, may enable them to meet their necessarily increased expenditure.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

I have gladly assented to the important Bills which you have passed for effecting reforms long and anxiously desired in the practice and proceedings of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity ; and generally, for improving the Administration of Justice.

Every measure which simplifies the forms, and diminishes the delay and expense of legal proceedings, without introducing uncertainty of decision, impairing the authority of the Courts, or lowering