



The Edinburgh Gazette.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1854.

BUCKINGHAM-PALACE, January 31, 1854.

THIS day Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, proceeded in state from Buckingham Palace to the House of Peers, where she arrived soon after two o'clock; and was received, on alighting from her state coach, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Earl of Clarendon, G.C.B., Deputy Great Chamberlain (in the absence of the Lord Willoughby de Eresby), and the Lord Steward of the Household, Garter King of Arms, and the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, and proceeded to the State Robing-room in the customary manner.

Her Majesty was there robed, and the procession moved into the House in the usual order;—the sword of state was borne by the Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester, and the crown by the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and His Royal Highness Prince Albert on a Chair on the left side of the Cloth of Estate, the Great Officers of State and others standing on the right and left, James Pulman, Esquire, Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their immediate attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to deliver the following most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am always happy to meet you in Parliament; and on the present occasion it is with peculiar satisfaction that I recur to your assistance and advice.

The hopes which I expressed at the close of the last Session that a speedy settlement would be effected of the differences existing between Russia and the Ottoman Porte have not been realized, and I regret to say that a state of warfare has ensued.

I have continued to act in cordial co-operation with the Emperor of the French, and my endeavours, in conjunction with my allies, to preserve and to restore peace between the contending parties, although hitherto unsuccessful, have been unremitting. I will not fail to persevere in these endeavours; but as the continuance of the war may deeply affect the interests of this Country, and

of Europe, I think it requisite to make a further augmentation of my Naval and Military Forces, with the view of supporting my representations, and of more effectually contributing to the restoration of peace.

I have directed that the papers explanatory of the negotiations which have taken place upon this subject shall be communicated to you without delay.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The estimates for the year will be laid before you, and I trust you will find that, consistently with the exigencies of the Public Service at this juncture, they have been framed with a due regard to economy.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

In the year which has just terminated, the blessing of an abundant harvest has not been vouchsafed to us. By this dispensation of Providence the price of provisions has been enhanced, and the privations of the poor have been increased; but their patience has been exemplary; and the care of the Legislature evinced by the reduction of taxes affecting the necessities of life, has greatly tended to preserve a spirit of contentment.

I have the satisfaction of announcing to you that the commerce of the Country is still prosperous; that trade, both of export and import, has been largely on the increase; and that the revenue of the past year has been more than adequate to the demands of the Public Service.

I recommend to your consideration a Bill which I have ordered to be framed for opening the coasting trade of the United Kingdom to the ships of all Friendly Nations; and I look forward with satisfaction to the removal of the last legislative restriction upon the use of Foreign shipping for the benefit of my People.

Communications have been addressed by my command to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, with reference to the improvement which it may be desirable to effect in their institutions. These communications will be laid before you, and measures will be proposed for your consideration, with the view of giving effect to such improvements.

The establishments requisite for the conduct of the Civil Service, and the arrangements bearing upon its condition, have recently been under review; and I shall direct a plan to be laid before