

future, as in the past, our beloved Country will, under these blessed influences, be again and ever foremost in the ranks of civilization and social improvement.

To which Address Her Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer :—

“ I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address.

“ I gratefully acknowledge the many and conspicuous proofs of the zeal and unanimity of my people, and the generous and enduring bravery of my soldiers and sailors, during the war in which we have been engaged, and which, in conjunction with my illustrious Allies, I have been enabled to conduct to an honourable and satisfactory termination.

“ I accept with sincere gratification your congratulations on the conclusion of a Treaty by which the objects of the war have been fully secured, and Peace has been re-established with the cordial concurrence of all the Great Powers of Europe.

“ I trust that this Peace, resting as I have reason to believe on a firm and secure basis, may be long continued to us, and that its blessings may, under Divine Providence, be widely experienced in friendly intercourse among Nations, and in the rapid progress of civilization and social improvement.”

They were all very graciously received, and had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand.

WAR-DEPARTMENT, May 13, 1856.

THE Queen has been pleased to issue a Commission under Her Royal sign manual, of which the following is a copy, to enquire into the system of purchase and sale of Commissions in Her Majesty's Army :

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith,

To Our right trusty and right entirely-beloved Cousin and Councillor, Edward Adolphus, Duke of Somerset ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Henry Stanley, commonly called Lord Stanley ;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Sidney Herbert ;

Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor, Edward Ellice ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Buckley Wynyard, Esquire, Lieutenant-General of Our Forces, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir De Lacy Evans, Lieutenant-General of Our Forces, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Harry David Jones, Major-General of Our Forces, with the local rank of Lieutenant-General in Turkey, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Henry John William Bentinck, Major-General of Our Forces, with the local rank of Lieutenant-General in Turkey, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath ;

Our trusty and well-beloved George Carr Glyn, Esquire ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Edward Robert Wetherall, Esquire, Colonel in Our Army, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Greeting ;

Whereas we have deemed it expedient that a Commission should issue for the purpose of enquiring into the system by which Gentlemen are permitted to enter Our Service, and Officers in Our Army are allowed to be advanced by the Purchase of Commissions at fixed prices, and likewise to retire from Our Service by the Sale of the same ; and that the said Commission should report to Us whether it may be expedient to make any changes in the existing system.

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you, the said Edward Adolphus Duke of Somerset, Edward Henry Stanley, Sidney Herbert, Edward Ellice, Edward Buckley Wynyard, Sir De Lacy Evans, Sir Harry David Jones, Sir Henry John William Bentinck, George Carr Glyn, and Edward Robert Wetherall, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid ; and We do hereby authorise and empower you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, to obtain information thereupon, by the examination of all persons most competent, by reason of their knowledge, habits, or experience, to afford it, and also by calling for all documents, papers, or records which may appear to you, or any three or more of you, calculated to assist your researches, and to promote the formation of a sound judgment upon the subject.

And We do hereby command and require you, or any three or more of you, to report to Us, under your hands and seals, with all convenient speed, your opinion whether it may be expedient to make any, and if any, what changes in the system by which

Firstly. Gentlemen are permitted to Purchase first Commissions in Our Army :

Secondly. Officers are permitted to Purchase any higher Commissions :

Thirdly. Officers are permitted to retire from Our Army by the Sale of their Commissions, all at prices established by Regulations of Our Royal Predecessors, and likewise whether the sanction thus given to first entry into Our Army, and subsequent promotion by Purchase, and retirement by Sale of Commissions, has been beneficial or otherwise to the interests and character of Our Army generally.

And We will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any three or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not contained from time to time by adjournment.

And for your further assistance in the execution of these presents, We do hereby authorise and empower you to appoint a Secretary to this Our Commission, whose services and assistance We require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require.

Given at Our Court, at St James's, the tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and fifty six, in the nineteenth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

(Signed) PANMURE.