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*The Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Tuesday, February 3, 1857 :—*

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

WE are commanded to assure you that Her Majesty has great satisfaction in recurring again to the advice and assistance of Her Parliament.

We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that difficulties which arose in regard to some of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris delayed the complete execution of the stipulations of that Treaty. Those difficulties have been overcome in a satisfactory manner, and the intentions of the Treaty have been fully maintained.

An insurrectionary movement which took place in September last in the Swiss Canton of Neuchâtel, for the purpose of re-establishing in that Canton the authority of the King of Prussia as Prince of Neuchâtel, led to serious differences between His Prussian Majesty and the Swiss Confederation, threatening at one time to disturb the general peace of Europe; but Her Majesty commands us to inform you that, in concert with Her August Ally the Emperor of the French, She is endeavouring to bring about an amicable settlement of the matters in dispute, and Her Majesty entertains a confident expectation that an honourable and satisfactory arrangement will be concluded.

In consequence of certain discussions which took place during the Conferences at Paris, and which are recorded in the protocols that were laid before you, Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French caused communications to be made to the Government of the King of the Two Sicilies for the purpose of inducing him to adopt a course of policy calculated to avert dangers which might disturb that peace which had so recently been restored to Europe.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that the manner in which those friendly communications were received by His Sicilian Majesty was such as to lead Her Majesty and the Emperor of the French to discontinue their diplomatic relations with His Sicilian Majesty, and they have accordingly withdrawn their missions from the Court of Naples. Her Majesty has directed that papers relating to this subject shall be laid before you.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has been engaged in negotiations with the Government of the United States, and also with the Government of Honduras, which she trusts will be

successful in removing all cause of misunderstanding with respect to Central America.

Her Majesty has concluded a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce with Siam, which will be laid before you.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you Her regret that the conduct of the Persian Government has led to hostilities between Her Majesty and the Shah of Persia.

The Persian Government, in defiance of repeated warnings, and in violation of its engagements, has besieged and captured the important city of Herat.

We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you that a British Naval and Military Force despatched from Bombay has taken possession of the Island of Karrack and of the town of Bushire, with a view to induce the Shah to accede to the just demands of Her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty has seen with satisfaction that the Naval and Military Forces employed on this occasion have displayed their accustomed gallantry and spirit.

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that acts of violence, insults to the British flag, and infraction of Treaty Rights, committed by the local Chinese Authorities at Canton, and a pertinacious refusal of redress, have rendered it necessary for Her Majesty's Officers in China to have recourse to measures of force to obtain satisfaction. Those measures had, up to the date of the last accounts, been taken with great forbearance, but with signal success as regards the conflicts to which they had led.

We are commanded to inform you that Her Majesty trusts that the Government of Peking will see the propriety of affording the satisfaction demanded, and of faithfully fulfilling its Treaty Engagements.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with every attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficient performance of the Public Service at home and abroad.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that Bills will be submitted to your consideration for the Consolidation and the Amendment of important portions of the Law; and Her Majesty doubts not that you will give your earnest attention to matters

