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Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, on Tuesday, February 6, 1866:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great satisfaction that I have recourse to your assistance and advice.

I have recently declared my consent to a Marriage between my daughter Princess Helena and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein Sonderbourg-Augustenburg. I trust the union may be prosperous and happy.

The death of my beloved uncle the King of the Belgians has affected me with profound grief. I feel great confidence, however, that the wisdom which he evinced during his reign will animate his successor, and preserve for Belgium her independence and prosperity.

My relations with Foreign Powers are friendly and satisfactory, and I see no cause to fear any disturbance of the general peace.

The meeting of the Fleets of France and England in the ports of the respective countries has tended to cement the amity of the two Nations, and to prove to the world their friendly concert in the promotion of peace.

I have observed with satisfaction that the United States, after terminating successfully the severe struggle in which they were so long engaged, are wisely repairing the ravages of civil war. The Abolition of Slavery is an event calling forth the cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been foremost in showing its abhorrence of an institution repugnant to every feeling of justice and humanity.

I have at the same time the satisfaction to inform you that the exertions and perseverance of my Naval Squadron have reduced the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa within very narrow limits.

A correspondence has taken place between my Government and that of the United States with respect to injuries inflicted on American Commerce by Cruizers under the Confederate Flag. Copies of this correspondence will be laid before you.

The renewal of Diplomatic relations with Brazil has given me much satisfaction; and I acknowledge with pleasure that the good offices of my ally the King of Portugal have contributed essentially to this happy result.

I have to regret the Interruption of Peace between Spain and Chili. The good offices of my Government, in conjunction with those of the Government of the Emperor of the French, have been accepted by Spain, and it is my earnest hope that the causes of disagreement may be removed in a manner honourable and satisfactory to both countries.

The negotiations which have been long pending in Japan, and which have been conducted with great ability by my Minister in that country, in conjunction with the representatives of my allies in Japan, have been brought to a conclusion which merits my entire approbation. The existing Treaties have been ratified by the Mikado; it has been stipulated that the Tariff shall be revised in a manner favourable to Commerce, and that the indemnity due under the terms of the Convention of October 1864 shall be punctually discharged.

I have concluded a Treaty of Commerce with the Emperor of Austria, which I trust will open to that Empire the blessings of extended Commerce, and be productive of important benefits to both countries.

The deplorable events which have occurred in the Island of Jamaica have induced me to provide at once for an impartial inquiry, and for the due maintenance of authority during that inquiry, by appointing a distinguished Military Officer as Governor and Commander of the Forces. I have given him the assistance of two able and learned Commissioners, who will aid him in examining into the origin, nature, and circumstances of the recent outbreak and the measures adopted in the course of its suppression. The Legislature of Jamaica has proposed that the present Political Constitution of the Island should be replaced by a new form of Government. A bill upon this subject will be submitted for your consideration.

Papers on these occurrences will be laid before you.

Papers on the present state of New Zealand will be laid before you.

I have given directions for the return to this country of the greater portion of my regular forces employed in that Colony.

I watch with interest the proceedings which are still in progress in British North America with a view to a closer union among

