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The Speech of the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament, on Friday, August 10, 1866.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE are commanded by Her Majesty, in releasing you from the labours of a protracted Session, to convey to you Her Majesty's acknowledgments for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to your Parliamentary duties.

Her Majesty has much satisfaction in informing you that Her relations with all Foreign Powers are on the most friendly footing.

Her Majesty has watched with anxious interest the progress of the War which has recently convulsed a great portion of the Continent of Europe. Her Majesty cannot have been an indifferent spectator of events which have seriously affected the positions of Sovereigns and Princes with whom Her Majesty is connected by the closest ties of relationship and friendship; but Her Majesty has not deemed it expedient to take part in a contest in which neither the honour of Her Crown nor the interest of Her People demanded any active intervention on Her part. Her Majesty can only express an earnest hope that the negotiations now in progress between the Belligerent Powers may lead to such an arrangement as may lay the foundation of a secure and lasting Peace.

A wide-spread treasonable Conspiracy, having for its objects the subversion of Her Majesty's authority in Ireland, the confiscation of property, and the establishment of a Republic, having its seat in Ireland, but deriving its principal support from naturalized citizens of a foreign and friendly State, compelled Her Majesty at the commencement of the present Session to assent to a measure, recommended by Her Representative in Ireland, for the temporary suspension in that part of Her Majesty's Dominions of the Habeas Corpus Act. That measure, firmly but temperately acted on by the Irish Executive, had the effect of repressing any outward manifestations of treasonable intentions, and of causing the withdrawal from Ireland of the greater portion of those foreign agents by whom the Conspiracy was mainly fostered.

The leaders, however, of this movement were not deterred from prosecuting their criminal designs

beyond the limits of Her Majesty's Dominions. They even attempted from the territories of the United States of America an inroad upon the peaceful subjects of Her Majesty in Her North American Provinces. That attempted inroad, however, only served to manifest in the strongest manner the loyalty and devotion of Her Majesty's subjects in those Provinces, who, without exception of creed or origin, united in defence of their Sovereign and their Country. It served also to show the good faith and scrupulous attention to international rights displayed by the Government of the United States, whose active interference, by checking any attempted invasion of a friendly State, mainly contributed to protect Her Majesty's Dominions against the evils of a predatory inroad.

Her Majesty would have been rejoiced at the close of the present Session to be enabled to put an end to the exceptional legislation which She was compelled to sanction at its commencement; but the protection which Her Majesty owes to Her loyal subjects leaves Her no alternative but that of assenting to the advice of Her Parliament to continue till their next meeting the provisions of the existing law. Her Majesty looks anxiously forward to the time when She may be enabled to revert to the ordinary provisions of the law.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Her Majesty commands us to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the Public Service, and for the Naval and Military Defences of the Country.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Her Majesty has seen with great concern the monetary pressure which, for a period of unprecedented duration, has weighed upon the interests of the Country. The consequent embarrassment appeared at one moment to be aggravated by so general a feeling of distrust and alarm that Her Majesty, in order to restore confidence, authorized Her Ministers to recommend to the Directors of the Bank of England a course of proceeding suited to the emergency.

This, though justifiable under the circumstances, might have led to an infringement of the law, but Her Majesty has the satisfaction of being able to inform you that no such infringement has taken place, and that, although the Monetary Pressure

