

alike with those who may rule in Afghanistan and with the people of that country.

My anticipations as to the early establishment of peace in South Africa have been fulfilled. The capture and deposition of the Zulu King, and the breaking up of the military organization on which his dynasty was based, have relieved my possessions in that part of the world from a danger which has seriously impeded their advancement and consolidation. In Basutoland, a native outbreak of considerable importance has been effectually quelled by my Colonial forces; while the Transvaal has been freed from the depredations of a powerful Chief, who, having successfully resisted the former Government of the country, had persistently rejected our attempts at conciliation. I have reason to hope that the time is now approaching when an important advance may be made towards the establishment of a Union or Confederation, under which the powers of self-government, already enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Cape Colony, may be extended to my subjects in other parts of South Africa.

Papers on these and other matters will be forthwith laid before you.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have directed the Estimates of this year to be prepared and presented to you without delay.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

The Commission which, at the close of the Session, I informed you I had issued to inquire into the causes of agricultural depression throughout the United Kingdom, is pursuing its labours.

In the meantime, the serious deficiency in the usual crops in some parts of Ireland has rendered necessary special precautions on the part of my Government to guard against the calamities with which those districts were threatened.

With this view, they have called upon the authorities charged with the duty of administering relief to make ample preparations for the distribution of food and fuel, should such a step become necessary, and they have also stimulated the employment of labour by advances on terms more liberal than those prescribed by the existing law.

I feel assured that you will give your sanction to the course which has been adopted where it may have exceeded the power entrusted by Parliament to the Executive Government.

A proposal will be submitted to you for providing the funds required for these exceptional advances on the security of the property administered by the Church Temporalities Commissioners.

I trust you will be able to resume the consideration of the Criminal Code, and of the Improvement of the Law of Bankruptcy.

Bills will be laid before you, for enlarging the powers of Owners of Settled Land; for consolidating and amending the Lunacy Laws; and for simplifying the practice of Conveyancing.

I commend to you these and other measures which may be submitted for your consideration; and I trust that the blessing of the Almighty will attend and direct your labours.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, ST. JAMES'S PALACE, January 30, 1880.

Notice is hereby given that The Queen will hold a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace, on Friday the 20th of February, at three o'clock.

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, ST. JAMES'S PALACE, January 30, 1880.

Notice is hereby given that His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will, by command of The Queen, hold a Levee at St. James's Palace, on behalf of Her Majesty, on Tuesday the 17th of February, at two o'clock.

It is The Queen's pleasure that Presentations to His Royal Highness at this Levee shall be considered as equivalent to Presentations to Her Majesty.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, February 4, 1880.

This day had audience of Her Majesty:—

His Excellency Prince Lobanoff-Rostoffsky, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, to deliver his Credentials; and

Mori Arinori, to deliver the Letter of Recall of Wooyeno Kagenori and his own Credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan;

To which audiences they were respectively introduced by the Right Honourable Richard Assheton Cross, M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Home Affairs, acting for the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by General Sir Francis Seymour, Bart., K.C.B., Her Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies.

FOREIGN OFFICE, February 4, 1880.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of Mr. Georges Carra de Vaux as Consul at Malta for the French Republic.

The Queen has also been pleased to approve of Mr. Robert Ward as Consul for British Columbia, to reside at Victoria, for His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway; and of Mr. Alexander E. Burke as Consul at Kingston, Jamaica, for the Republic of Hayti.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
February 3, 1880.

In pursuance of the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 12th February 1876, the Civil Service Commissioners hereby announce that the undermentioned Appointments in the Civil Service were notified to them in the month of January 1880:—

APPOINTMENTS.

Admiralty, — James Joseph Anderson, Henry Thomas Chapman, Alfred M'Kenzie Dinnick, John Gard, John Thomas Geaton, William Ernest James Goodanew, Henry John Northcott, William Phillips, and John Puddicombe, to be Dockyard Writers.

Henry Brown, Philip Parcell, James Roger Saunders, Alfred Staite, and Richard Straw, to be Pensioner Writers.