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*Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, delivered by the Lords Commissioners, to both Houses of Parliament, on Thursday, May 20, 1880.*

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I AVAIL myself of the earliest opportunity of meeting you after the recent General Election and the arrangements required upon a change of Administration.

The cordial relations which I hold with all the other Powers of Europe will, I trust, enable me to promote, in concert with them, the early and complete fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin, with respect to effectual reforms and equal laws in Turkey, as well as to such territorial questions as have not yet been settled, in conformity with the provisions of that Treaty. I regard such a fulfilment as essential for the avoidance of further complications in the East.

In accordance with this view, I have deemed it expedient to despatch an Ambassador-Extraordinary to the Court of the Sultan.

On the last occasion of my addressing you, I expressed my hope that the measures adopted in Afghanistan would lead to a speedy settlement of that country. Since that period the gallantry of my troops has continued to be conspicuous, and the labours of my Government in India have been unremitting. But I have to lament that the end in view has not yet been attained. My efforts will, however, be unceasingly directed towards the pacification of Afghanistan, and

towards the establishment of such institutions as may be found best fitted to secure the independence of its people, and to restore their friendly relations with my Indian Empire.

The condition of Indian finance, as it has recently been made known to me, has required my special attention. I have directed that you shall be supplied with the fullest information upon this weighty subject.

I invite your careful notice to the important questions of policy connected with the future of South Africa. I have continued to commend to the favourable consideration of the authorities and of the people in the various settlements the project of confederation. In maintaining my supremacy over the Transvaal, with its diversified population, I desire both to make provision for the security of the indigenous races, and to extend to the European settlers institutions based on large and liberal principles of self-government.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I notice with satisfaction that the imports and exports of the country, as well as other signs, indicate some revival in trade. But the depression which has lately been perceived in the revenue continues without abatement. The estimates of income, which were laid before the last Parliament, were framed with moderation; but the time which has since elapsed exhibits no promise that they will be exceeded.

The annual estimates of charge, so far as they have not been already voted, will be promptly laid before you.