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Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, delivered by the Lords Commissioners, to both Houses of Parliament, on Thursday, February 15, 1883.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I HAVE summoned you at a date somewhat later than is usual, on account of the advanced period to which the labours of the last Session were protracted.

I have the satisfaction of maintaining with all Foreign Powers relations of friendship and goodwill.

At the close of the last Session I had the pleasure of recording my gratitude to my sea and land forces for suppressing with rapidity and completeness a formidable rebellion in Egypt. Since then tranquility has been restored to that country, clemency has been shown by its ruler to the leaders of the rebellion, and the withdrawal of the British troops is proceeding as expeditiously as a prudent consideration of the circumstances will admit.

The reconstruction of the Government of Egypt, and the reorganization of its affairs under the authority of the Khedive, have in part been accomplished, and will continue to receive my earnest attention. It will be my endeavour to secure that full provision shall be made for the exigencies of order, for a just representation of the wants and wishes of the population, and for the observance of international obligations.

I have already been able to fulfil the promise made by me to the Sultan, and to the Great Powers of Europe, that I would submit to their friendly consideration the arrangements which appeared to me to be the best fitted to insure the

stability of the Khedive's Government, the prosperity and happiness of the Egyptian people, the security of the Suez Canal, and the peace of Europe in the East.

To those objects my policy has been directed in the past, and will be addressed in the future; and I continue to rely with confidence on its just appreciation by other countries.

A Conference of the Great Powers has assembled in London to consider measures for better securing the freedom of navigation on the Danube, which is placed under their guarantee, and forms part of the public law of Europe.

The condition of Zululand, and the possibility of renewed disturbances there, have engaged my most serious attention. With a view to the preservation of peace and order, I have caused the former ruler of that country to be replaced in possession of the greater part of the territories held by him before the war. I earnestly hope that this step may lead to the establishment of a more stable Government, and to the maintenance of good relations between the Zulu nation and the adjoining Colony of Natal.

Papers on these subjects will be presented to you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The estimates for the services of the coming year are in a forward state of preparation, and will be speedily laid before you.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I am happy to state that the improvement in the social condition of Ireland, to which I referred in