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Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, delivered by the Lords Commissioners, to both Houses of Parliament, on Saturday, September 25, 1886.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I AM glad to be able to release you from your arduous duties.

My relations with Foreign Powers continue to be friendly. The mutiny of a portion of the Bulgarian army has led to the abdication of Prince Alexander. A Regency has been established, which is now administering the affairs of the Principality, and preparations are being made for the election of his successor in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

In answer to a communication addressed by the Porte to the Signatory Powers, parties to that Treaty, I have stated that, so far as this country is concerned, there will be no infraction of the conditions guaranteed by Treaties to Bulgaria. Assurances to the same effect have been given by other Powers.

The demarcation of the Afghan frontier has advanced to within a few miles of the Oxus. In view of the approach of winter, my Commission has been withdrawn, but the information which they have obtained will be sufficient for the determination, by direct negotiation between the two Courts, of the portion of frontier which still remains unmarked.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the supplies which you have voted for the requirements of the public service.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I have directed the issue of a Commission to inquire into the circumstances which appear to have prevented the anticipated operation of recent Acts dealing with the Tenure and Purchase of Land in Ireland.

I have observed with much satisfaction the interest which, in an increasing degree, is evinced by the people of this country in the welfare of their Colonial and Indian fellow-subjects, and I am led to the conviction that there is on all sides a growing desire to draw closer in every practicable way the bond which unites the various portions of the Empire. I have authorised communications to be entered into with the principal Colonial Governments with a view to the fuller consideration of matters of common interest.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may be with you.

Then a Commission for proroguing the Parliament was read; after which the Lord Chancellor said:—

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

By virtue of Her Majesty's Commission, under the Great Seal, to us and other Lords directed, and now read, we do, in Her Majesty's name, and in obedience to Her commands, prorogue this Parliament to Thursday the eleventh day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the eleventh day of November next.