

Officers of State and others standing on the right and left, James Pulman, Esq. Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to deliver the following most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament :

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I REJOICE that I am enabled, on again meeting you in Parliament, to congratulate you on the improved condition of the country.

Increased activity pervades almost every branch of manufacture; trade and commerce have been extended at home and abroad; and among all classes of my people there is generally prevalent a spirit of loyalty and cheerful obedience to the law.

I continue to receive from all Foreign Powers and States assurances of their friendly disposition.

I have had much satisfaction in receiving at my Court the Sovereigns who in the course of the last year visited this country.

The journey of the Emperor of Russia, undertaken at a great sacrifice of private convenience, was a proof of the friendship of His Imperial Majesty most acceptable to my feelings.

The opportunity of personal intercourse thus afforded to me may, I hope, be the means of still further improving those amicable relations which have long existed between Great Britain and Russia.

The visit of the King of the French was rendered especially welcome to me, inasmuch as it had been preceded by discussions which might have impaired the good understanding happily established between the two countries.

I regard the maintenance of this good understanding as essential to the best interests of both; and I rejoiced to witness that the sentiments so cordially expressed by all classes of my subjects on the occasion of His Majesty's visit were entirely in unison with my own.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

The estimates for the ensuing year have been prepared, and will forthwith be laid before you.

The progress of steam navigation, and the demands for protection to the extended commerce of the country, will occasion an increase in the estimates connected with the Naval Service.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I have observed, with sincere satisfaction, that the improvement which is manifest in other parts of the country has extended to Ireland.

The political agitation and excitement which I have had heretofore occasion to lament appear to have gradually abated, and, as a natural result, private capital has been more freely applied to useful public enterprizes, undertaken through the friendly co-operation of individuals interested in the welfare of Ireland.

I have carried into effect, in the spirit in which it was conceived, the Act for the more effectual application of charitable donations and bequests.

I recommend to your favourable consideration the policy of improving and extending the opportunities for academical education in Ireland.

The report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the law and practice in respect to the occupation of land is nearly prepared, and shall be communicated to you immediately after its presentation.

The state of the law in regard to the privileges of the Bank of Ireland, and to other banking establishments in that country, and in Scotland, will no doubt occupy your attention.

The health of the inhabitants of large towns and populous districts in this part of the United Kingdom has been the subject of recent inquiry before a Commission, the report of which shall be immediately laid before you.

It will be highly gratifying to me if the information and suggestions contained in that report shall enable you to devise the means of promoting the health and comfort of the poorer classes of my subjects.

I congratulate you on the success of the measures which three years since were adopted by Parliament for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the public revenue, and arresting the accumulation of debt in the time of peace.

The Act which was passed at that time for imposing a tax upon income will shortly expire.