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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1852.

Buckingham-Palace, February 3, 1852.

THIS day Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, proceeded in state from Buckingham-Palace to the House of Peers, where she arrived soon after two o'clock; and was received, on alighting from her state coach, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Augustus Clifford, Bart. C.B. Deputy Great Chamberlain, (in the absence of the Lord Willoughby de Eresby), the Lord Steward of the Household, the Duke of Wellington, Garter King of Arms, and the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod, and proceeded to the State Robing-room in the customary manner.

Her Majesty was there robed, and the procession moved into the House in the usual order;—the sword of state was borne by the Duke of Wellington, the cap of maintenance by the Earl of Athmarke, and the crown by the Marquess of Normanby.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and His Royal Highness Prince Albert on a Chair on the left side of the Cloth of Estate, the Great Officers of State and others standing on the right and left, James Pulman, Esquire, 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,

THE period has arrived when, according to usage, I can again avail myself of your advice and assistance in the preparation and adoption of measures which the welfare of the country may require.

I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with foreign powers.

The complicated affairs of the Duchies of Holstein and Sleswig have continued to engage my attention. I have every reason to expect that the Treaty between Germany and Denmark, which was concluded at Berlin in the year before last, in a short time be fully and completely executed.

I regret that the war which unfortunately broke out on the eastern frontier of the Cape of Good Hope more than a year ago, still continues. Papers will be laid before you containing full information as to the progress of the war, and the

measures which have been taken for bringing it to a termination.

While I have observed with sincere satisfaction the tranquillity which has prevailed throughout the greater portion of Ireland, it is with much regret that I have to inform you, that certain parts of the counties of Armagh, Monaghan, and Louth have been marked by the commission of outrages of the most serious description. The powers of the existing law have been promptly exerted for the detection of the offenders, and for the repression of a system of crime and violence fatal to the best interests of the country. My attention will continue to be directed to this important object.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have ordered estimates of the expenses of the current year to be laid before you.

I rely with confidence on your loyalty and zeal to make adequate provision for the public service.

Where any increase has been made in the estimates of the present over the past year, such explanations will be given as will, I trust, satisfy you that such increase is consistent with a steady adherence to a pacific policy and with the dictates of a wise economy.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

The improvement of the administration of justice in its various departments has continued to receive my anxious attention; and in furtherance of that object I have directed bills to be prepared, founded upon the reports made to me by the respective commissions appointed to inquire into the practice and proceedings of the superior courts of law and equity, as nothing tends more to the peace, prosperity, and contentment of a country than the speedy and impartial administration of justice. I earnestly recommend these measures to your deliberate attention.

The Act of 1848 for suspending the operation of a previous Act conferring representative institutions on New Zealand will expire early in the next year. I am happy to believe that there is no necessity for its renewal, and that no obstacle any longer exists to the enjoyment of representative institutions by New Zealand. The form of these institutions will, however, require your consideration; and the additional information which has been obtained since the passing of the Acts in question will, I trust, enable you to arrive at a decision beneficial to that important colony.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state