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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1854.

Buckingham-Palace, December 12, 1854.

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, the Lord Great Chamberlain, and the Treasurer of the Household, Garter King of Arms, and the Gentleman 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 Earl of Aberdeen, K.T., the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester, and the crown by the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.

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, Sir Augustus Clifford, Bart., C.B., Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their immediate 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 HAVE called you together at this unusual period of the year, in order that by your assistance I may take such measures as will enable me to prosecute the great war in which we are engaged with the utmost vigour and effect.

This assistance I know will be readily given; for I cannot doubt that you share my conviction of the necessity of sparing no effort to augment my forces now engaged in the Crimea. The exertions they have made, and the victories they have obtained, are not exceeded in the brightest pages of our history, and have filled me with admiration and gratitude.

The hearty and efficient co-operation of the brave troops of my ally the Emperor of the French, and the glory acquired in common, cannot fail to cement still more closely the union which happily subsists between the two nations.

It is with satisfaction I inform you, that, together with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded a treaty of alliance with the Emperor of Austria, from which I anticipate important advantages to the common cause.

I have also concluded a treaty with the United States of America, by which subjects of long and difficult discussion have been equitably settled.

These treaties will be laid before you.

Although the prosecution of the war will naturally engage your chief attention, I trust that other matters of great interest and importance to the general welfare will not be neglected.

I rejoice to observe that the general prosperity of my subjects remains uninterrupted.

The state of the revenue affords me entire satisfaction; and I trust that by your wisdom and prudence you will continue to promote the progress of agriculture, commerce, and manufactures.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

In the estimates which will be presented to you I trust you will find that ample provision has been made for the exigencies of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I rely with confidence on your patriotism and public spirit. I feel assured that in the momentous contest in which we are engaged you will exhibit to the world the example of a united people. Thus shall we obtain the respect of other nations, and may trust that, by the blessing of God, we shall bring the war to a successful termination.

AT the Court at *Buckingham Palace*, the 11th day of *December*, 1854,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the session of Parliament, held in the fifteenth and sixteenth years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to amend the laws concerning the burial of the dead in the metropolis," it is enacted, that in case it appears to Her Majesty in Council, upon the representation of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, that, for the protection of the public health, burials in any part or parts of the metropolis, or in any burial-grounds or places of burial in the metropolis, should be wholly discontinued, or should be discontinued subject to any exception or qualification, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order that from and after a time mentioned in the Order, burials in such part or parts of the metropolis, or in such burial-grounds or places of burial, shall be discontinued wholly, or subject to any