

thereon, and with the name of the Lady by whom she is to be presented. In order to carry out the existing regulation, that no presentation can be made at a Drawing Room excepting by a Lady actually attending that Court, it is also necessary that a letter from the Lady who is to make the presentation, stating it to be her intention to be present, should accompany the presentation card above referred to, which will be submitted to the Queen, for Her Majesty's approbation. It is Her Majesty's Command, that no Presentations shall be made at the Drawing Rooms, except in accordance with the above regulations.

It is particularly requested that in every case the names be *very distinctly written* upon the cards to be delivered to the Lord Chamberlain, in order that there may be no difficulty in announcing them to The Queen.

The state apartments will not be open for the reception of Company coming to Court, until half-past one o'clock.

Buckingham Palace, February 5, 1861.

THIS day Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Prince Consort, 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 President, the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Augustus Clifford, officiating for the Lord Great Chamberlain (the Lord Willoughby de Eresby), 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 crown was borne by the Duke of Somerset, the sword of state by the Lord President, and the cap of maintenance by the Marquis of Winchester.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and His Royal Highness the Prince Consort on a Chair on the left side of the Cloth of Estate, the Great Officers of State and others standing in their respective places on the right and left, Robert Cavendish Spencer Clifford, Esq., Yeoman 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,

IT is with great satisfaction that I meet you again in Parliament, and have recourse to your assistance and advice.

My relations with Foreign Powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory; and I trust that the moderation of the Powers of Europe will prevent any interruption of the general Peace.

Events of great importance are taking place in Italy. Believing that the Italians ought to be left to settle their own affairs, I have not thought it right to exercise any active interference in those matters. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

I announced to you, at the close of the last Session of Parliament, that the atrocities which

had then recently been committed in Syria had induced me to concur with the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Prince Regent of Prussia, and the Emperor of Russia, in entering into an engagement with the Sultan by which temporary military assistance was to be afforded to the Sultan for the purpose of establishing order in that part of his dominions.

That assistance has been afforded by a body of French troops, who have been sent to Syria as representing the Allied Powers. The Sultan has also placed a considerable military force in Syria under the direction of an able officer; and I trust that tranquillity will soon be re-established in that province, and that the objects of the Convention will have been fully attained.

I announced to you also at the close of the last Session of Parliament that the pacific overtures which my Envoy in China had made to the Imperial Government at Peking having led to no satisfactory result, my naval and military forces, and those of my ally The Emperor of the French, were to advance towards the Northern provinces of China, for the purpose of supporting the just demands of the Allied Powers, and that the Earl of Elgin had been sent to China as Special Ambassador to treat with the Chinese Government.

I am glad to inform you that the operations of the Allied Forces have been attended with complete success. After the capture of the forts at the mouth of the Peiho, and several engagements with the Chinese Army, the Allied Forces became masters of the Imperial city of Peking; and the Earl of Elgin and Baron Gros, the Ambassador of The Emperor of the French, were enabled to obtain an honourable and satisfactory settlement of all the matters in dispute.

Throughout these operations and the negotiations which followed them, the Commanders and Ambassadors of the Allied Powers acted with the most friendly concert. Papers on this subject will be laid before you.

The state of my Indian territories is progressively improving, and I trust that their financial condition will gradually partake of the general amendment.

An insurrection of a portion of the natives of New Zealand has interrupted the peace of a part of that Colony; but I hope that the measures which have been taken will speedily suppress these disturbances, and enable my Government to concert such arrangements as may prevent their recurrence.

Serious differences have arisen among the States of the North American Union. It is impossible for me not to look with great concern upon any events which can affect the happiness and welfare of a people nearly allied to my subjects by descent, and closely connected with them by the most intimate and friendly relations. My heartfelt wish is that these differences may be susceptible of a satisfactory adjustment.

The interest which I take in the well-being of the people of the United States cannot but be increased by the kind and cordial reception given by them to the Prince of Wales during his recent visit to the continent of America.

I am glad to take this opportunity of expressing my warm appreciation of the loyalty and attachment to my Person and Throne manifested by my Canadian and other North American subjects on the occasion of the residence of the Prince of Wales among them.

I have concluded with the Emperor of the French Conventions supplementary to the Treaty of Commerce of 23rd of January 1860, and in furtherance of the objects of that Treaty.