

into the origin, nature, and circumstances of the recent outbreak, and the measures adopted in the course of its suppression. The Legislature of Jamaica has proposed that the present political constitution of the island should be replaced by a new form of Government. A Bill upon this subject will be submitted for your consideration.

Papers on these occurrences will be laid before you.

Papers on the present state of New Zealand will be laid before you.

I have given directions for the return to this country of the greater portion of my Regular Forces employed in that Colony.

I watch with interest the proceedings which are still in progress in British North America with a view to a closer union among the provinces, and I continue to attach great importance to that object.

I have observed with great concern the extensive prevalence, during the last few months, of a virulent distemper among cattle in Great Britain, and it is with deep regret, and with sincere sympathy for the sufferers, that I have learnt the severe losses which it has caused in many counties and districts. It is satisfactory to know that Ireland and a considerable part of Scotland are as yet free from this calamity, and I trust that by the precautions suggested by experience, and by the Divine blessing on the means which are now being employed, its further extension may be arrested.

The Orders which have been made by the Lords of my Privy Council, by virtue of the powers vested in them by law, with a view to prevent the spreading of this disease, will be laid before you; and your attention will be called to the expediency of an amendment of the law relating to a subject so deeply affecting the interests of my people.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed that the Estimates for the ensuing year shall be laid before you. They have been prepared with a due regard to economy, and are at the same time consistent with the maintenance of efficiency in the Public Service.

The condition of Trade is satisfactory.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

A Conspiracy, adverse alike to authority, property, and religion, and disapproved and condemned alike by all who are interested in their maintenance, without distinction of creed or class, has unhappily appeared in Ireland. The constitutional power of the ordinary tribunals has been exerted for its repression, and the authority of the law has been firmly and impartially vindicated.

A Bill will be submitted to you, founded on the Report of the Royal Commission, on the subject of Capital Punishment, which I have directed to be laid before you.

Bills will be laid before you for amending and consolidating the Laws relating to Bankruptcy, and for other Improvements in the Law.

Measures will also be submitted to you for extending the System of Public Audit to branches of receipt and expenditure which it has not hitherto reached, and for amending the provisions of the Law with respect to certain classes of legal pensions.

Your attention will be called to the subject of the Oaths taken by Members of Parliament, with a view to avoid unnecessary declarations, and to remove invidious distinctions between members of different religious communities in matters of Legislation.

I have directed that information should be procured in reference to the Rights of Voting in the election of Members to serve in Parliament for counties, cities, and boroughs.

When that information is complete, the attention of Parliament will be called to the result thus obtained, with a view to such improvements in the laws which regulate the rights of voting in the election of Members of the House of Commons as may tend to strengthen our free institutions, and conduce to the public welfare.

In these and in all other deliberations I fervently pray that the blessing of Almighty God may guide your counsels to the promotion of the happiness of my people.

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 6th day of February, 1866.

By the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

PRESENT,

Lord President.
Duke of Somerset.
Lord Stanley of Alderley.
Sir George Grey, Bart.
Mr. Bruce.
Mr. Goschen.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the session of the eleventh and twelfth years of Her present Majesty's reign, chapter one hundred and seven, intituled "An Act to prevent until the 1st day of September, 1850, and to the end of the then next session of Parliament, the spreading of contagious or infectious disorders amongst sheep, cattle, and other animals," which Act has since been from time to time continued by divers subsequent Acts, and lastly by an Act passed in the session of the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and nineteen, it is (amongst other things) enacted that it shall be lawful for the Lords and others of Her Majesty's Privy Council, or any two or more of them, from time to time, to make such Orders and Regulations as to them may seem necessary for the purpose of prohibiting or regulating the removal, to or from such parts or places as they may designate in such Order or Orders, of sheep, cattle, horses, swine, or other animals, or of meat, skins, hides, horns, hoofs, or other parts of any animals, or of hay, straw, fodder, or other articles likely to propagate infection; and to make any other Orders or Regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the said Act, and again to revoke, alter, or vary any such Orders or Regulations; and that all provisions for any of the purposes aforesaid in any such Order or Orders contained shall have the like force and effect as if the same had been inserted in the said Act; and that all persons offending against the same shall for each and every offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding twenty pounds, or such smaller sum as the said Lords or others of Her Majesty's Privy Council may in any case by such Order direct:

And whereas a contagious or infectious disorder now prevails among cattle within that part of the United Kingdom called Great Britain, which dis-