

o'clock, two clear days before the Levee, a card with his name written thereon, and with the name of the Nobleman or Gentleman by whom he is to be presented. In order to carry out the existing regulation that no presentation can be made at a Levee excepting by a person actually attending that Levee, it is also necessary that an intimation from the Nobleman or Gentleman who is to make the presentation, of his 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 these Levees, 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 His Royal Highness.

The State apartments will be open for the reception of Company coming to Court at one *o'clock*.

SYDNEY,
Lord Chamberlain.

Buckingham Palace, February 9, 1871.

THIS day Her Majesty 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 carriage, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, the Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain (Lord Aveland), the Earl Marshal, Garter King of Arms, and Black Rod, and proceeded into the House in the usual order;—the crown was borne by the Duke of Cleveland, K.G., the sword of state by the Earl Granville, K.G., and the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and the Great Officers of State and others standing in their respective places on the right and left, 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 to the Lord Chancellor the following most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, which Her Majesty commanded his Lordship to read, and which he accordingly did:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AT an epoch of such moment to the future fortunes of Europe, I am especially desirous to avail myself of your counsels.

The war which broke out in the month of July between France and Germany has raged, until within the last few days, with unintermitted and likewise with unexampled force; and its ravages may be renewed, after but a few days more, unless moderation and forethought, prevailing over all impediments, shall sway the councils of both the parties whose well-being is so vitally concerned.

At the time when you separated, I promised a constant attention to the subject of neutral obligations; and I undertook to use my best endeavours to prevent the enlargement of the area of the war, and to contribute, if opportunity should

offer, to the restoration of an early and honourable peace.

In accordance with the first of these declarations I have maintained the rights and strictly discharged the duties of neutrality.

The sphere of the war has not been extended beyond the two countries originally engaged.

Cherishing with care the cordiality of my relations with each belligerent, I have forbore from whatever might have been construed as gratuitous or unwarranted interference between parties, neither of whom had shown a readiness to propose terms of accommodation such as to bear promise of acceptance by the other.

I have been enabled, on more than one occasion, to contribute towards placing the representatives of the two contending countries in confidential communication; but, until famine compelled the surrender of Paris, no further result had been obtained.

The armistice now being employed for the Convocation of an Assembly in France, has brought about a pause in the constant accumulation, on both sides, of human suffering, and has rekindled the hope of a complete accommodation. I pray that this suspension may result in a peace compatible, for the two great and brave nations involved, with security and with honour, and likely therefore to command the approval of Europe, and to give reasonable hopes of a long duration.

It has been with concern that I have found myself unable to accredit my Ambassador in a formal manner to the Government of Defence, which has subsisted in France since the revolution of September; but neither the harmony nor the efficiency of the correspondence of the two States has been in the smallest degree impaired.

The King of Prussia has accepted the title of Emperor of Germany at the instance of the chief authorities of the nation.

I have offered my congratulations on an event which bears testimony to the solidity and independence of Germany, and which, I trust, may be found conducive to the stability of the European system.

I have endeavoured, in correspondence with other Powers of Europe, to uphold the sanctity of treaties, and to remove any misapprehension as to the binding character of their obligations.

It was agreed by the Powers, which had been parties to the Treaty of 1856, that a Conference should meet in London. This Conference has now been for some time engaged in its labours; and I confidently trust that the result of its deliberations will be to uphold both the principles of public right and the general policy of the Treaty, and, at the same time, by the revision of some of its conditions in a fair and conciliatory spirit, to exhibit a cordial co-operation among the Powers with regard to the Levant.

I greatly regret that my earnest efforts have failed to procure the presence at the Conference of any representative of France, which was one of the chief parties to the Treaty of 1856, and which must ever be regarded as a principal and indispensable member of the great commonwealth of Europe.

At different times several questions of importance have arisen, which are not yet adjusted, and which materially affect the relations between the United States and the territories and people of British North America. One of them, in par-