



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1886.

Buckingham Palace, January 21, 1886.

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 Portland, the Sword of State by the Marquess of Salisbury, 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,

My relations with other Powers continue to be of a friendly character.

The difference which existed, when I last addressed you, between my Government and that of Russia, on the subject of the boundaries of Afghanistan, has been satisfactorily adjusted. In pursuance of a Convention which will be laid before you, the English and Russian Commissioners, with the full concurrence of my ally, the Amir of Afghanistan, have been engaged in demarcating the frontier of that country. I trust that their work, which is already far advanced, may tend to secure the continuance of peace in Central Asia.

A rising in Eastern Roumelia has given expression to the desire of the inhabitants for a change in the political arrangements under which they were placed by the Treaty of Berlin. My object, in the negotiations which have followed, has been to bring them, according to their wish, under the rule of the Prince of Bulgaria, while maintaining unimpaired the essential rights of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

Under a Convention which has been concluded with the Ottoman Porte, Commissioners have been appointed on behalf of England and Turkey to

confer with His Highness the Khedive, and to report upon the measures required for securing the defence of Egypt and the stability and efficiency of the Government in that country.

Greatly to my regret, I was compelled in the month of November to declare war against Theebaw, the King of Ava. Acts of hostility on his part against my subjects and the interests of my Empire had, since his accession, been deliberate and continuous. These had necessitated the withdrawal of my Representative from his Court; and my demands for redress were systematically evaded and disregarded. An attempt to confiscate the property of my subjects trading under agreement in his dominions, and a refusal to settle the dispute by arbitration, convinced me that the protection of British life and property, and the cessation of dangerous anarchy in Upper Burmah, could only be effected by force of arms. The gallantry of my European and Indian Forces, under Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Prendergast, rapidly brought the country under my power; and I have decided that the most certain method of insuring peace and order in those regions is to be found in the permanent incorporation of the Kingdom of Ava with my Empire. Papers on this subject will be immediately laid before you.

The time which has elapsed since I assumed the direct Government of India makes it desirable that the operation of the Statutes by which that change was effected should be carefully investigated. I commend this important matter to your earnest attention.

A protracted negotiation respecting the rights of the Republic of France on the coasts of Newfoundland, under the Treaty of Utrecht, has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion by an Agreement, which will be laid before you and before the Legislature of Newfoundland as soon as it assembles. An Agreement has also been made with Spain, securing to this country all commercial rights granted to Germany in the Caroline Islands.

Your consent will be asked to legislative measures rendered necessary by a Convention on the subject of International Copyright to which I have agreed.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The Estimates for the expenditure of the ensuing year, which have been framed with a due regard to efficiency and economy, will be submitted to you.