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Downing Street, January 8, 1894.

HE following further Messages and Addresses of Congratulation on the occasion of the Betrothal of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, K.G., to Her Serene Highness the Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, have been received by the Right Honourable the Marquess of Ripon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, and have been presented accordingly; and replies have been graciously returned by Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses :---

Through the Governor of Victoria, from-

The City of Ballarat.

The Shire of Colac.

Through the Administrator of the Falkland Islands, from.

The Legislature and Inhabitants of the Falkland Islands.

Through the Governor of Victoria, from-

The Bishop of Melbourne, on behalf of the Church of England within the Diocese of Melbourne.

From the Metropolitan, Bishops, and Clerical and Lay Delegates of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land.

Foreign Office, January 9, 1894.

THE Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid the following translation, in précis, of a Royal Decree respecting the trade of Great Britain with Spain :-

Extract from the Madrid Gazette of January 1, 1894.

PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. Preamble.

(Translation in précis.)

IN view of the fact that the Conventions concluded with Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and Holland come into operation on the 1st January, while the Commercial Treaties with Germany, Austria, and Italy, the Conventions with Great Britain and Denmark, and the Provisional Agreement concluded with France are awaiting ratification, it becomes necessary to adopt certain measures for establishing a legitimate reciprocity until the Cortes shall have met,

discussed the Conventions, and submitted their suggestions for Royal sanction. These measures should not differ from those adopted in the case of nations with whom we have recently concluded Treaties, and those which, in virtue of past Agreements, are entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment, in view of the Conventions coming into force on the 1st January.

With regard to those nations which have not yet concluded new Commercial Agreements, and those coming under the second column of the Tariff in virtue of the Royal Order of the 29th June, 1892, it is impossible to introduce any change until a more satisfactory arrangement is arrived at.

(Signed) PRAXIDES MATEO SAGASTA. Madrid, December, 31, 1893.

Royal Decree.

In the name of my August Son, King Alphonso XIII, and as Queen-Regent of the Realm, at the instigation of the Council of Ministers,

I hereby decree as follows:

ART. 1. From the 1st January next, and pending the deliberations of the Cortes on the Project of Law to be immediately laid before them, the most reduced ("mas reducidos") Tariff and further advantages resulting from the Commercial Conventions with Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Holland shall be applied to the products of the soil and industries of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, France, Great Britain and her Colonies, and Italy, subject to the same conditions as those under which those benefits are conceded.

ART. 2. Similar rights and immunities shall be applied to those nations possessing the most-favoured-nation clause in Treaties of Commerce, Peace, or Friendship, which have not been named.

Art. 3. The duties of the Second Column of the Tariff shall continue to be levied in the form now applying to the products of the soil and industries of all other nations entitled to this advantage, in virtue of the Royal Order of the 29th June, 1892. Art. 4. The Government shall notify the pro-

visions of this Decree to the Cortes.

Given at the Palace the 31st December, 1893. (Signed) MARIA CHRISTINA.

The President of the Council of Ministers, PRAXIDES MATEO SAGASTA. (Signed)