

left, Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a message from His Royal Highness to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Royal Highness, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for enabling His Majesty to raise the sum of five millions for the service of Great Britain, and for applying the sum of two hundred thousand pounds, British currency, for the service of Ireland.

An Act to repeal a certain provision respecting persons convicted of felony without benefit of clergy, contained in an Act, made in the fifty-second year of the reign of His present Majesty, for the erection of a penitentiary house for the confinement of persons convicted within the city of London and county of Middlesex, and for making other provisions in lieu thereof.

After which His Royal Highness delivered the following most gracious speech to both Houses of Parliament :

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I CANNOT release you from your attendance in Parliament without repeating the expression of my deep regret at the continuance of His Majesty's lamented indisposition.

The attention which you have paid to the public interests in the course of this session demands my warmest acknowledgements.

The splendid and signal success which has attended the commencement of the campaign in the Peninsula, the consummate skill and ability displayed by Field-Marshal the Marquess of Wellington in the progress of those operations which have led to the great and decisive victory obtained near Vittoria, and the valour and intrepidity by which His Majesty's forces, and those of His Allies, have been distinguished, are as highly gratifying to my feelings as they have been to those of the whole nation. Whilst these operations have added new lustre to the British arms, they afford the best prospect of the deliverance of the Peninsula from the tyranny and oppression of France; and they furnish the most decisive proof of the wisdom of that policy which has induced you, under every vicissitude of fortune, to persevere in the support of this glorious contest.

The entire failure of the French Ruler in his designs against the Russian empire, and the destruction of the French army employed on that service, were followed by the advance of the Russian forces,

since joined by those of Prussia, to the Banks of the Elbe; and though upon the renewal of the contest the allied armies have found themselves obliged to retreat before the superior numbers collected by the enemy, their conduct during a series of severe and sanguinary conflicts has nobly upheld their military character, and commanded the admiration of Europe.

I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that there exists between me and the Courts of St. Petersburg, Berlin, and Stockholm, the most cordial union and concert; and I trust I shall be enabled, by the aids which you have so liberally afforded, to render this union effectual for the accomplishment of the great purpose for which it has been established.

I regret the continuance of the war with the United States of America.

My desire to re-establish between the two countries those friendly relations, so important to their mutual interests, continues unabated; but I cannot consent to purchase the restoration of peace by any sacrifice of the maritime rights of the British empire.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the services of the present year.

It is a great satisfaction to me to reflect that, by the regulations you have adopted for the redemption of the national debt, you have established a system which will not retard its ultimate liquidation, whilst at the same time it provides for the vigorous prosecution of the war with the least practicable addition to the public burdens.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I entirely approve of the arrangements which you have made for the government of the British territories in India, and for the regulation of the British commerce in that part of the world. They appear to have been wisely framed, with a view to the circumstances which have occurred since this subject was last under the consideration of Parliament. By these arrangements you have preserved in its essential parts that system of government which experience has proved to be not less calculated to provide for the happiness of the inhabitants of India, than to promote the interests of Great Britain; and you have judiciously extended to the subjects of the United Kingdom in general a participation in the commerce of countries within the limits of the East India Company's charter, which will, I