

His Majesty will never lose sight of the great objects to which all His efforts have been directed—the termination of the contest between the hostile parties—the permanent settlement of their future relations to each other—and the maintenance of the repose of Europe upon the basis on which it has rested since the last general Treaty of Peace.

His Majesty has the greatest satisfaction in informing you, that the purposes for which His Majesty, upon the requisition of the Court of Lisbon, detached a military force to Portugal, have been accomplished. The obligations of good faith having been fulfilled, and the safety and independence of Portugal secured, His Majesty has given orders that the forces now in that country should be immediately withdrawn.

We are commanded by His Majesty to acquaint you, that His Majesty has concluded Treaties of Amity and Commerce with the Emperor of Brazil, and with the United States of Mexico; copies of which will, by His Majesty's commands, be laid before you.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

His Majesty has ordered the estimates for the current year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with every regard to economy, consistent with the exigency of the public service.

We are commanded by His Majesty to recommend to your early attention, an enquiry into the state of the revenue and expenditure of the country.

His Majesty is assured that it will be satisfactory to you to learn, that notwithstanding the diminution which has taken place in some branches of the revenue, the total amount of receipt during the last year, has not disappointed the expectations which were entertained at the commencement of it.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

His Majesty has commanded us to inform you, that a considerable increase has taken place in the export of the principal articles of British manufacture. This improvement of our foreign trade has led to a more general employment of the population, and affords a satisfactory indication of the continued abatement of those commercial difficulties which recently affected so severely the national industry.

His Majesty commands us to assure you, that He places the firmest reliance upon your continued endeavours to improve the condition of all classes of His subjects, and to advance the great object of His Majesty's solicitude, the prosperity and happiness of His people.

At the Court at Windsor, the 26th day of January 1820.

PRESENT,

The KING's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by a certain Act of Parliament, passed in the sixth year of the reign of His present Majesty, intituled "An Act to regulate the trade of the British possessions abroad," after reciting, that "by the Law of Navigation foreign ships are permitted to import into any of the British possessions abroad, from the countries to which they belong, goods, the produce of those countries, and to export goods from such possessions to be carried to any foreign country whatever, and that it is expedient that such permission should be subject to certain conditions," it is enacted, "that the privileges thereby granted to foreign ships shall be limited to the ships of those countries which, having colonial possessions, shall grant the like privileges of trading with those possessions to British vessels, or which, not having colonial possessions, shall place the commerce and navigation of this country, and of its possessions abroad, upon the footing of the most favoured nation, unless His Majesty, by His Order in Council, shall in any case deem it expedient to grant the whole or any of such privileges to the ships of any foreign country, although the conditions aforesaid shall not in all respects be fulfilled by such foreign country."

And whereas by an Act, passed in the seventh and eighth years of His present Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to amend the laws relating to the Customs," after reciting or taking notice of the said Act so passed as aforesaid in the sixth year of His Majesty's reign, and after reciting that unless some period were limited for the fulfilment by foreign countries of the conditions mentioned and referred to in the said recited Act, the trade and navigation of the United Kingdom and of the British possessions abroad, could not be regulated by fixed and certain rules, but would continue subject to changes dependent upon the laws from time to time made in such foreign countries; it is therefore enacted, that no foreign country shall hereafter be deemed to have fulfilled the conditions so prescribed as aforesaid in and by the said Act, as to be entitled to the privileges therein mentioned, unless such foreign country had in all respects fulfilled those conditions within twelve months next after the passing of the said Act, that is to say, on or before the fifth day of July one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six; and for the better ascertaining what particular foreign countries are permitted by law to exercise and enjoy the said privileges, it is further enacted, that no foreign country shall hereafter be deemed to have fulfilled the beforementioned conditions, or to be entitled to the privileges aforesaid, unless and until His Majesty shall by some Order or Orders to be by him made, by the advice of His Privy Council, have declared that such foreign country hath so fulfilled the said conditions, and is entitled to the said privileges; provided always, and it is thereby declared and enacted, that nothing therein contained, extends, or