

message from His Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, His Majesty was pleased to deliver the following most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament:

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

ON this first occasion of meeting you, I am desirous of repeating to you in person My cordial thanks for those assurances of sincere sympathy and affectionate attachment which you conveyed to Me on the demise of My lamented Brother, and on My accession to the Throne of My Ancestors.

I ascend that Throne with a deep sense of the sacred duties which devolve upon Me,—with a firm reliance on the affection of My faithful subjects, and on the support and co-operation of Parliament,—and with an humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God that He will prosper My anxious endeavours to promote the happiness of a free and loyal people.

It is with the utmost satisfaction that I find Myself enabled to congratulate you upon the general tranquillity of Europe; this tranquillity it will be the object of My constant endeavours to preserve; and the assurances which I receive from My Allies, and from all Foreign Powers, are dictated in a similar spirit.

I trust that the good understanding which prevails upon subjects of common interest, and the deep concern which every state must have in maintaining the peace of the world, will ensure the satisfactory settlement of those matters which still remain to be finally arranged.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the supplies which you have granted, and for the provision which you have made for several branches of the public service, during that part of the present year which must elapse before a new Parliament can be assembled. I cordially congratulate you on the diminution which has taken place in the expenditure of the country; on the reduction of the charge of the public debt; and on the relief which you have afforded to My people by the repeal of some of those taxes which have heretofore pressed heavily upon them.

You may rely upon My prudent and economical administration of the supplies which you have placed at My disposal, and upon My readiness to concur in every diminution of the public charges which can be effected consistently with the dignity of the

Crown, the maintenance of national faith, and the permanent interests of the country.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I cannot put an end to this Session, and take My leave of the present Parliament, without expressing My cordial thanks for the zeal which you have manifested on so many occasions for the welfare of My people.

You have wisely availed yourselves of the happy opportunity of general peace and internal repose calmly to review many of the laws and judicial establishments of the country, and you have applied such cautious and well-considered reforms as are consistent with the spirit of our venerable institutions, and are calculated to facilitate and expedite the administration of justice.

You have removed the civil disqualifications which affected numerous and important classes of My people.

While I declare on this solemn occasion My fixed intention to maintain to the utmost of My power the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law, let Me at the same time express My earnest hope, that the animosities which have prevailed on account of religious distinctions may be forgotten, and that the decision of Parliament with respect to those distinctions having been irrevocably pronounced, My faithful subjects will unite with Me in advancing the great object contemplated by the Legislature, and in promoting that spirit of domestic concord and peace which constitutes the surest basis of our national strength and happiness.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by His Majesty's command, said;

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

It is His Majesty's Royal Will and Pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday the tenth day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Tuesday the tenth day of August next.

By the KING.

A PROCLAMATION,

*For dissolving this present Parliament and declaring the calling of another.*

WILLIAM, R.

**W**HEREAS We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, to dissolve this present Parliament, which stands prorogued to Tues-