

Government has acted in these transactions, and the assurances which I continue to receive from the chief Powers of Europe of their friendly disposition, give me confidence in the success of my endeavours to preserve the general peace. I have given directions that the various papers which are necessary for your information on the affairs of Holland and Belgium should be laid before you.

The approaching termination of the charters of the Bank of England and of the East India Company will require a revision of these establishments; and I rely on your wisdom for making such provisions for the important interests connected with them, as may appear, from experience and full consideration, to be best calculated to secure public credit, to improve and extend our commerce, and to promote the general prosperity and power of the British empire.

Your attention will also be directed to the state of the Church, more particularly as regards its temporalities and the maintenance of the Clergy. The complaints which have arisen from the collection of tithes appear to require a change of system, which, without diminishing the means of maintaining the Established Clergy in respectability and usefulness, may prevent the collision of interests, and the consequent disagreement and dissatisfaction which have too frequently prevailed between the Ministers of the Church and their parishioners.

It may also be necessary for you to consider what remedies may be applied for the correction of acknowledged abuses, and whether the revenues of the Church may not admit of a more equitable and judicious distribution.

In your deliberations on these important subjects, it cannot be necessary for Me to impress upon you the duty of carefully attending to the security of the Church established by law in these realms, and to the true interests of religion.

In relation to Ireland, with a view of removing the causes of complaint which had been so generally felt, and which had been attended with such unfortunate consequences, an Act was passed during the last session of Parliament, for carrying into effect a general composition for tithes; to complete that salutary work, I recommend to you, in conjunction with such other amendments of the law as may be found applicable to that part of My dominions, the adoption of a measure, by which, upon the principle of a just commutation, the possessors of land may

be enabled to free themselves from the burthen of an annual payment.

In the further reforms that may be necessary, you will probably find, that, although the Established Church of Ireland is by law permanently united with that of England, the peculiarities of their respective circumstances will require a separate consideration.

There are other subjects hardly less important to the general peace and welfare of Ireland, as affecting the administration of justice and the local taxation of that country, to which your attention will also be required.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have directed the estimates for the service of the year to be laid before you: they will be framed with the most anxious attention to all useful economy. Notwithstanding the large reduction in the estimates of the last year, I am happy to inform you that all the extraordinary services which the exigencies of the times required have been amply provided for. The state of the revenue, as compared with the public expenditure, has hitherto fully realized the expectations that were formed at the close of the last session.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

In this part of the United Kingdom, with very few exceptions, the public peace has been preserved; and it will be your anxious but grateful duty to promote, by all practicable means, habits of industry and good order amongst the labouring classes of the community.

On My part I shall be ready to co-operate, to the utmost of My power, in obviating all just causes of complaint, and in promoting all well-considered measures of improvement. But it is My painful duty to observe, that the disturbances in Ireland, to which I adverted at the close of the last session, have greatly increased. A spirit of insubordination and violence has risen to the most fearful height, rendering life and property insecure, defying the authority of the law, and threatening the most fatal consequences, if not promptly and effectually repressed.

I feel confident that to your loyalty and patriotism I shall not resort in vain for assistance in these afflicting circumstances; and that you will be ready to adopt such measures of salutary precaution, and to entrust to Me such additional powers, as may be found necessary for controuling and punishing the