

You may rest assured that I look with the greatest anxiety to the moment when the Portuguese Monarchy, so long united with this country by the ties of alliance and by the closest bonds of interest, may be restored to a state of peace, and may regain its former prosperity.

The hostilities which had disturbed the peace of Turkey have been terminated; and you may be assured that My attention will be carefully directed to any events which may affect the present state or the future independence of that empire.

An investigation, carefully prosecuted during the last session, has enabled you to renew the charter of the Bank of England on terms which appear to be well calculated to sustain public credit, and to secure the usefulness of that important establishment.

The laborious inquiries carried on by Committees of both Houses of Parliament for several successive sessions have also enabled you to bring the affairs of the East India Company to a satisfactory adjustment. I have the most confident expectation that the system of government thus established will prove to have been wisely framed for the improvement and happiness of the natives of India, whilst, by the opening of the China trade, a new field has been afforded for the activity and enterprise of British commerce.

The state of slavery in My colonial possessions has necessarily occupied a portion of your time and your attention, commensurate with the magnitude and the difficulty of the subject; whilst your deliberations have been guided by the paramount considerations of justice and humanity, the interests of the colonial proprietors have not been overlooked. I trust that the future proceedings of the Assemblies and the conduct of all classes in My colonies may be such as to give full effect to the benevolent intentions of the Legislature, and to satisfy the just expectations of My people.

I observe with satisfaction that the amendment of the law has continued to occupy your attention, and that several important measures have been adopted, by some of which the titles to property have been rendered more secure, and the conveyance of it more easy; while by others the proceedings in Courts both of Law and Equity have been made more expeditious and less costly. The establishment of the Court of Privy Council is another improvement which, while it materially assists suitors at home, will, I trust, afford substantial relief to those in My foreign possessions.

You may rest assured that there is no part of your labours which I regard with a deeper interest than that which tends, by well-considered amendments of the law, to make justice easily accessible to all My subjects.

With this view I have caused a Commission to be issued for digesting into one body the enactments of the Criminal Law, and for inquiring how far, and by what means, a similar process may be extended to the other branches of our jurisprudence. I have also directed Commissions to be issued for investigating the state of the Municipal Corporations throughout the United Kingdom.

The result of their inquiries will enable you to mature those measures which may seem best fitted to place the internal government of corporate cities and towns upon a solid foundation, in respect of their finances, their judicature, and their police. In the meantime two important acts have been passed for giving constitutions, upon sound principles, to the Royal and Parliamentary Burghs of Scotland; and your attention will hereafter be called to the expediency of extending similar advantages to the unincorporated towns in England which have now acquired the right of returning members to Parliament.

It was with the greatest pain that I felt Myself compelled to call upon you for additional powers to controul and punish the disturbers of the public peace in Ireland.

This call was answered, as I confidently expected, by your loyalty and firmness.

I have not found it necessary, except in a very limited degree, to use the powers thus confided to Me; and I have now the satisfaction of informing you, that the spirit of insubordination and violence which had prevailed to so alarming an extent has been, in a great measure, subdued.

I look forward with anxiety to the time when the painful necessity of continuing this measure of great but unavoidable severity may cease; and I have given My assent with unqualified satisfaction to the various salutary and remedial measures which, during the course of the present session, have been proposed to Me for My acceptance.

The Act which, in pursuance of My recommendation, you have passed with respect to the temporalities of that branch of the United Church which is established in Ireland, and for the immediate and total abolition of vestry assessments, and the Acts for the better regulation of juries, both as to their