

Lord Chamberlain's-Office, January 1, 1836.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Drawing-Room to be held at St. James's-Palace, on Wednesday the 24th of February next, being for the celebration of Her Majesty's Birth-day, *the Knights of the several Orders are to appear in their Collars.*

St. James's-Palace, February 4, 1836.

THIS day His Majesty proceeded in state from St. James's-Palace to the House of Peers, where he arrived about two o'clock; and was received, on alighting from his state coach, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Deputy Lord Great Chamberlain, the Earl Marshal, the Lord Steward of the Household, the Lord Viscount Melbourne, Clarenceux King of Arms, in the absence of Garter, and the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and proceeded to the robing-room in the customary manner.

His Majesty was there robed, and having put on the imperial crown, the procession moved into the House in the usual order;—the sword of state was borne by the Lord Viscount Melbourne, and the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester.

His Majesty being seated on the Throne, the Great Officers of State and others standing on the right and left, Sir Augustus Clifford, Knt. Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a 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,

IT is with much satisfaction that I again meet the great council of the nation assembled in Parliament. I am ever anxious to avail Myself of your advice and assistance; and I rejoice that the present state of public affairs, both at home and abroad, is such as to permit you to proceed, without delay or interruption, to the calm examination of those measures which will be submitted to your consideration.

I continue to receive from My Allies, and generally from all Foreign Powers, assurances of their unaltered desire to cultivate with Me those friendly relations which it is equally My wish to maintain with them; and the intimate union which happily subsists between this country and France is a pledge to Europe of the continuance of the general peace.

Desirous on all occasions to use My friendly endeavours to remove causes of disagreement between other Powers, I have offered My mediation in order to compose the difference which has arisen between France and the United States. This offer has been accepted by the King of the French. The answer of the President of the United States has not yet been received; but I entertain a confident hope that a misunderstanding between two nations, so enlightened and high minded, will be settled in a manner satisfactory to the feelings and consistent with the honor of both.

I have still to lament the continuance of the civil contest in the northern provinces of Spain. The measures which I have taken, and the engagements into which I have entered, sufficiently prove My deep anxiety for its termination; and the prudent and vigorous conduct of the present Government of Spain inspires Me with the hope that the authority of the Queen will soon be established in every part of her dominions; and that the Spanish nation, so long connected by friendship with Great Britain, will again enjoy the blessings of internal tranquillity and union.

I have given directions that there shall be laid before you the treaty which I have concluded with the Queen of Spain, for the suppression of the slave trade.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed the estimates of the year to be prepared and laid before you without delay. They have been framed with the strictest regard to a well-considered economy.

The necessity of maintaining the maritime strength of the country, and of giving adequate protection to the extended commerce of My subjects, has occasioned some encrease in the estimates for the naval branch of the public service.

The state of the commerce and manufactures of the United Kingdom is highly satisfactory.

I lament that any class of My subjects should still suffer distress; and the difficulties which continue to be felt in important branches of agriculture may deserve your inquiry, with a view of ascertaining whether there are any measures which Parliament can advantageously adopt for the alleviation of this pressure.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I have not yet received the further report of the Commission appointed, to consider the state of the several dioceses in England and Wales; but I have