

lain, 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.

Her Majesty was there robed, and the procession moved into the House in the usual order;—the imperial crown was borne by the Duke of Somerset, K. G. the sword of state by the Lord Viscount Melbourne, and the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester.

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

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

I HAVE been anxious to seize the first opportunity of meeting you, in order that I might repeat in person My cordial thanks for your condolence upon the death of His late Majesty, and for the expressions of attachment and affection with which you congratulated Me upon My accession to the Throne. I am desirous of renewing the assurance of My determination to maintain the Protestant Religion as established by law, to secure to all the free exercise of the rights of conscience, to protect the liberties, and to promote the welfare of all classes of the community.

I rejoice that in ascending the Throne I find the country in amity with all Foreign Powers; and while I faithfully perform the engagements of My Crown, and carefully watch over the interests of My subjects, it shall be the constant object of My solicitude to preserve the blessings of peace.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have granted for the public service of the year, as well as for the provision which you have made to meet the payments usually chargeable upon the Civil List.

I will give directions that the public expenditure, in all its branches, be administered with the strictest economy.

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

In taking leave of this Parliament, I return you My thanks for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the public business of the country.

Although your labours have been unexpectedly interrupted by the melancholy event which has taken place, I trust that they will have the beneficial effect of advancing the progress of legislation in a new Parliament. I perceive with satisfaction that you have brought to maturity some useful measures, amongst which I regard with peculiar interest the amendment of the criminal code and the reduction of the number of capital punishments. I hail this mitigation of the severity of the law as an auspicious commencement of My reign.

I ascend the Throne under a deep sense of the responsibility which is imposed upon Me, but I am supported by the consciousness of My own right intentions, and by My dependence upon the protection of Almighty God. It will be My care to strengthen our institutions, civil and ecclesiastical, by discreet improvement, wherever improvement is required, and to do all in My power to compose and allay animosity and discord,

Acting upon these principles I shall, upon all occasions, look with confidence to the wisdom of Parliament and the affections of My people, which form the true support of the dignity of the Crown, and ensure the stability of the Constitution.

Then the Lord Chancellor, by Her Majesty's command, said:

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It is Her Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday the tenth day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the tenth day of August next.

By the QUEEN.

A PROCLAMATION,

For dissolving the present Parliament, and declaring the calling of another.

VICTORIA, R.

WHEREAS We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, to dissolve this present Parliament, which stands prorogued to Thurs-