

On the other hand, organized confederacies took advantage of the existing pressure to excite my suffering subjects to rebellion. Hopes of plunder and confiscation were held out to tempt the distressed, while the most visionary prospects were exhibited to the ambitious. In this conjuncture I applied to your loyalty and wisdom for increased powers; and, strengthened by your prompt concurrence, my Government was enabled to defeat in a few days machinations which had been prepared during many months. The energy and decision shewn by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in this emergency deserve my warmest approbation.

In the midst of these difficulties you have continued your labours for the improvement of the laws; the Act for facilitating the sale of incumbered estates will, I trust, gradually remove an evil of great magnitude in the social state of Ireland.

The system of perpetual entails of land established in Scotland produced very serious evils both to heirs of entail and to the community, and I have had great satisfaction in seeing it amended upon principles which have long been found to operate beneficially in this part of the United Kingdom.

I have given my cordial assent to the measures which have in view the improvement of the public health, and I entertain an earnest hope that a foundation has been laid for continual advances in this beneficent work.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have to thank you for the readiness with which you have granted the supplies necessary for the public service.

I shall avail myself of every opportunity which the exigencies of the State may allow for enforcing economy.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I have renewed in a formal manner my diplomatic relations with the Government of France. The good understanding between the two countries has continued without the slightest interruption.

Events of deep importance have disturbed the internal tranquillity of many of the States of Europe, both in the north and in the south. These events have led to hostilities between neighbouring countries.

I am employing my good offices, in concert with other friendly Powers, to bring to an amicable settlement these differences; and I trust that our efforts may be successful.

I am rejoiced to think that an increasing sense of the value of peace encourages the hope that the Nations of Europe may continue in the enjoyments of its blessings. Amidst these convulsions I have had the satisfaction of being able to preserve peace for my own dominions, and to maintain our domestic tranquillity. The strength of our institutions has been tried, and has not been found wanting. I have studied to preserve the people committed to my charge in the enjoyment of that temperate freedom which they so justly value. My people, on their side, feel too sensibly the advantages of order and security to allow the promoters of pillage and confusion any chance of success in their wicked designs.

I acknowledge with grateful feelings the many marks of loyalty and attachment which I have received from all classes of my people. It is my earnest hope that by cultivating respect to the law, and obedience to the precepts of religion, the liberties of this nation may, by the blessing of Almighty God, be perpetuated.

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 second day of November next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday the second day of November next.

AT the Court at *Buckingham-Palace*, the  
4th day of *September* 1848,

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

THIS day the Most Honourable John Marquess of Breadalbane was, by Her Majesty's command, sworn of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took his place at the Board accordingly.