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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1849.

*Buckingham-Palace, February 1, 1849.*

**T**HIS day Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Albert, proceeded in state from Buckingham-Palace to the House of Peers, where she arrived soon after two o'clock; and was received, on alighting from her state coach, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Augustus Clifford, Bart. C.B. Deputy Great Chamberlain, (in the absence of the Lord Willoughby d'Eresby), the Lord Steward of the Household, the Duke of Wellington, Garter King of Arms, and the Yeoman 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 sword of state was borne by the Duke of Wellington, the cap of maintenance by the Marquess of Winchester, and the crown by the Marquess of Lansdowne.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and His Royal Highness Prince Albert on a Chair on the left side of the Cloth of Estate, the Great Officers of State and others standing on the right and left, James Pulman, Esquire, Yeoman 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,*

THE period being arrived at which the business of Parliament is usually resumed, I have called you together for the discharge of your important duties.

It is satisfactory to me to be enabled to state, that both in the North and in the South of Europe the contending parties have consented to a suspension of arms for the purpose of negotiating terms of peace.

The hostilities carried on in the Island of Sicily were attended with circumstances so revolting, that the British and French Admirals were impelled by motives of humanity to interpose, and to stop the further effusion of blood.

I have availed myself of the interval thus obtained, to propose, in conjunction with France, to the King of Naples, an arrangement calculated

to produce a permanent settlement of affairs in Sicily. The negotiation on these matters is still pending.

It has been my anxious endeavour, in offering my good offices to the various contending powers, to prevent the extension of the calamities of war, and to lay the foundations for lasting and honourable peace. It is my constant desire to maintain with all foreign states the most friendly relations.

As soon as the interests of the public service will permit, I shall direct the papers connected with these transactions to be laid before you.

A rebellion of a formidable character has broken out in the Punjaub, and the Governor-General of India has been compelled, for the preservation of the peace of the country, to assemble a considerable force, which is now engaged in military operations against the insurgents; but the tranquillity of British India has not been affected by these unprovoked disturbances.

I again commend to your attention the restrictions imposed on commerce by the navigation laws.

If you shall find that these laws are in whole or in part unnecessary for the maintenance of our maritime power, while they fetter trade and industry, you will no doubt deem it right to repeal or modify their provisions.

*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 a wise economy.

The present aspect of affairs has enabled me to make large reductions on the estimates of last year.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I observe with satisfaction that this portion of the United Kingdom has remained tranquil amidst the convulsions which have disturbed so many parts of Europe.

The insurrection in Ireland has not been renewed, but a spirit of disaffection still exists; and I am compelled, to my great regret, to ask for a continuance, for a limited time, of those powers which in the last session you deemed necessary for the preservation of the public tranquillity.

I have great satisfaction in stating that commerce is reviving from those shocks which at the commencement of last session I had to deplore.

The condition of the manufacturing districts is likewise more encouraging than it has been for a considerable period.