

The refusal on the part of the King of Ava of redress justly demanded for insults and injuries offered to my subjects at Rangoon has necessarily led to an interruption of friendly relations with that Sovereign. The promptitude and vigour with which the Governor-General of India has taken the measures thus rendered unavoidable have merited my entire approbation; and I am confident that you will participate in the satisfaction with which I have observed the conduct of all the Naval and Military forces, European and Indian, by whose valour and discipline the important captures of Rangoon and Martaban have been accomplished, and in the hope which I entertain that these signal successes may lead to an early and honourable peace.

Treaties have been concluded by my Naval Commanders with the King of Dahomey and all the African Chiefs whose rule extends along the Bight of Benin, for the total abolition of the Slave Trade, which is at present wholly suppressed upon that coast.

I have had great satisfaction in giving my assent to the measure which you have wisely adopted for the better organization of the Militia; a constitutional force, which, being limited to purposes of internal defence, can afford no just ground of jealousy to neighbouring Powers, but which, in the event of any sudden and unforeseen disturbance of my foreign relations, would at all times contribute essentially to the protection and security of my dominions.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the exigencies of the public service. The expenditure which you have authorized shall be applied with a due regard to economy and efficiency.

The recent discoveries of extensive gold fields have produced in the Australian colonies a temporary disturbance of society requiring prompt attention; I have taken such steps as appeared to me most urgently necessary for the mitigation of this serious evil. I shall continue anxiously to watch the important results which must follow from these discoveries. I have willingly concurred with you in an Act which, by rendering available to the service of those colonies the portion arising within them of the hereditary revenue placed at the disposal of Parliament on my accession to the Throne, may enable them to meet their necessarily increased expenditure.

*My Lords, and Gentlemen,*

I have gladly assented to the important Bills which you have passed for effecting reforms, long and anxiously desired, in the practice and proceedings of the superior courts of law and equity, and generally for improving the administration of justice. Every measure which simplifies the forms and diminishes the delay and expense of legal proceedings, without introducing uncertainty of decision, impairing the authority of the courts, or lowering the high standard of the judicial bench, is a valuable boon conferred on the community at large.

I hope that the measures which you have adopted for promoting extramural interment of the dead, and for improving the supply of water may be found effectual for the remedy of evils, the existence of which has long been a reproach to this great metropolis, and may conduce to the health and comfort of its inhabitants.

The extension of popular rights and legislative powers to my subjects resident in the colonies is always to me an object of deep interest; and I trust that the representative institutions which, in concert with you, I have sanctioned for New Zealand may promote the welfare and contentment of the population of that distant, but most interesting colony, and confirm their loyalty and attachment to my crown.

It is my intention, without delay, to dissolve this present Parliament; and it is my earnest prayer that in the exercise of the high functions which, according to our free constitution, will devolve upon the several constituencies, they may be directed by an all-wise Providence to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid me in my unceasing endeavours to sustain the honour and dignity of my crown, to uphold the Protestant institutions of the country, and the civil and religious liberty which is their natural result, to extend and improve the National Education, to develop and encourage industry, art, and science, and to elevate the moral and social condition, and thereby promote the welfare and happiness of my people.

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 Friday the twentieth day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Friday the twentieth day of August next.

By the QUEEN.

#### A PROCLAMATION,

*For Dissolving the present Parliament and Declaring the Calling of another.*

VICTORIA, R.

**W**HEREAS We have thought fit, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council, to dissolve this present Parliament, which was this day prorogued and stands prorogued to Friday the twentieth day of August next: We do for that end publish this Our Royal Proclamation, and do hereby dissolve the said Parliament accordingly; and the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses, and the Commissioners for shires and burghs, of the House of Commons are discharged from their meeting and attendance on the said Friday the twentieth day of August next: and We, being desirous and resolved, as soon as may be, to meet Our people, and to have their advice in Parliament, do hereby make known to all Our loving subjects our Royal will and pleasure to call a new Parliament: and do hereby further declare, that, with the advice of Our Privy Council, We have given order that Our Chancellor of that part of Our United Kingdom called Great Britain, and Our Chancellor of Ireland, do, respectively, upon notice thereof, forthwith issue out writs in due form, and according to law, for calling a new Parliament: and We do hereby also, by this Our Royal Proclamation under Our Great Seal of Our United Kingdom, require writs forth-