

jesty induces me to hope that negotiations, now in progress at Paris, may tend to the total abandonment of the system, and to the substitution of a duly regulated supply of substantially free labour.

The state of the Republic of Mexico, distracted by civil war, has induced me to carry forbearance to its utmost limits, in regard to wrongs and indignities to which British residents have been subjected at the hands of the two contending parties. They have at length been carried to such an extent that I have been compelled to give instructions to the Commander of my Naval Forces in those seas to demand, and if necessary to enforce, due reparation.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons,*

I have directed that the estimates of the ensuing year shall be submitted to you. They have been framed with a due regard to economy, and to the efficiency of the public service.

The universal introduction of steam power into naval warfare will render necessary a temporary increase of expenditure in providing for the reconstruction of the British Navy; but I am persuaded that you will cheerfully vote whatever sums you may find to be requisite for an object of such vital importance as the maintenance of the maritime power of the country.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*

Your labours have, in recent sessions, been usefully directed to various measures of legal and social improvement. In the belief that further measures of a similar character may be wisely and beneficially introduced, I have desired that Bills may be submitted to you, without delay, for assimilating and amending the laws relating to bankruptcy and insolvency; for bringing together into one set of statutes, in a classified form, and with such modifications as experience will suggest to you, the laws relating to crimes and offences in England and Ireland; for enabling the owners of land in England to obtain for themselves an indefeasible title to their estates and interests, and for registering such titles with simplicity and security.

Your attention will be called to the state of the laws which regulate the representation of the people in Parliament, and I cannot doubt but that you will give to this great subject a degree of calm and impartial consideration proportioned to the magnitude of the interests involved in the result of your discussions.

These and other propositions for the amendment of the laws which will be brought under your notice as the progress of public business may permit, I commend to the exercise of your deliberate judgment; and I earnestly pray that your counsels may be so guided as to ensure the stability of the throne, the maintenance and improvement of our institutions, and the general welfare and happiness of my people.

By the QUEEN,

A PROCLAMATION.

VICTORIA, R.

WHEREAS, in and by the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Commerce, agreed upon and concluded between Us and His Majesty the Tycoon of Japan, and signed on the twenty-sixth day of August last, it is (amongst other things) stipulated and agreed, that there shall be per-

petual peace and friendship between Us and His said Majesty; that certain Ports and Towns therein mentioned, in the Dominions of His said Majesty, shall be opened to British Subjects at the respective dates therein also mentioned (the earliest of such dates, as to the Ports of Hakodadi, and Kanagawa, and Nagasaki, being the First day of July, in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine); and it is thereby further stipulated, that the Articles for the regulation of Trade, which are appended to the said Treaty, shall be considered as forming a part of the same, and shall be equally binding on both the contracting parties to the said Treaty, and on their subjects; AND WHEREAS, until the Ratification of the said Treaty (of which due notice will be given), the existing laws and regulations of Japan remain in full force; and British subjects are thereby interdicted, under severe penalties, from all trade and intercourse with Japan, otherwise than in strict accordance with such laws and regulations; AND WHEREAS We have been given to understand, that divers persons, being British subjects, have despatched, or are preparing to despatch, to Japan certain ships and vessels, which ships and vessels are appointed or intended to proceed to, and to trade, or endeavour to trade with, and to hold intercourse with, Japan, contrary to, and in violation of, the existing laws and regulations of Japan, and before the Ratification of the said Treaty, and otherwise, in contravention of the said Treaty, if the same shall be hereafter ratified; AND WHEREAS all attempts to violate the said laws and regulations before the Ratification of the said Treaty, and all attempts to contravene or violate the stipulations thereof, after its Ratification, will tend seriously to frustrate and will greatly endanger the success of Our attempts to establish and maintain friendly relations, and promote commercial intercourse with His said Majesty the Tycoon of Japan, and His subjects, and will be in derogation of the laws and usage of nations, and will prove highly prejudicial to Our dignity and good faith, no less than to the rights and interests of all Our loving subjects, and will tend to the perpetration of serious crimes and offences, and will be of great public danger and detriment: WE HAVE THEREFORE thought fit to issue this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby WARNING all Our loving subjects, that all such enterprises and practices hereinbefore mentioned, are and will be carried on and committed in violation of the laws of Japan, and in contravention of the provisions of the said Treaty, if and when the same shall be ratified, and that We will not in any manner whatsoever interfere to prevent the forfeiture of any ships, or vessels, or goods, which may be employed in such enterprises or practices, or the infliction of pecuniary penalties or fines upon any persons engaged therein; and We do hereby further make known to all Our loving subjects, that instructions have been given to the Commanders of Our Ships of War in the ports of Japan, and in the waters near the same, to assist and support by all lawful means, His said Majesty the Tycoon of Japan and His Government, in preventing any violation, evasion, or contravention by British subjects, of the laws of Japan, or of the provisions of the said Treaty, or of the Articles for the Regulation of Trade appended thereto, if and when the same shall be ratified, and to prevent and hinder, by all lawful means, any attempt whatsoever by British subjects to violate or evade, in any manner whatsoever, the laws of Japan, within any of the dominions of His said Majesty the Tycoon of Japan, or to contra-