

and will provide for such reductions of expenditure as have appeared to be consistent with the proper efficiency of the Public Service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

We are commanded by Her Majesty to inform you, that notwithstanding the continuance of the civil war in North America, the general commerce of the country during the past year has not sensibly diminished.

The Treaty of Commerce which Her Majesty concluded with the Emperor of the French has already been productive of results highly advantageous to both the nations to which it applies; and the general state of the revenue, notwithstanding many unfavourable circumstances, has not been unsatisfactory.

Her Majesty trusts that these results may be taken as proofs that the productive resources of the country are unimpaired.

It has been gratifying to Her Majesty to observe the spirit of order which happily prevails throughout Her dominions, and which is so essential an element in the well-being and prosperity of nations.

Various measures of public usefulness and improvement will be submitted for your consideration; and Her Majesty fervently prays that in all your deliberations the blessing of Almighty God may guide your counsels to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of Her people.

AT the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 3rd day of *February*, 1863.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

THIS day His Grace William, Archbishop of York, and Sir Andrew Buchanan, K.C.B., Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the King of Prussia, were, by Her Majesty's command, sworn of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and took their places at the Board accordingly.

AT the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 3rd day of *February*, 1863.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled "An Act for rendering more easy the taking the Poll at County Elections," it is enacted that "it shall be lawful for His Majesty, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, from time to time, on Petition from the Justices of any county, riding, parts, or division in England or Wales, in Quarter Sessions assembled, representing that the number of polling places for such county, riding, parts, or division is insufficient, and praying that the place or places mentioned in the said petition may be a polling place or polling places for the county, riding, parts, or division of the county within which such place or places is or are situate, to declare that any place or places mentioned in the said Petition shall be a polling place or polling places for that county, riding,

parts, or division; and that the Justices of the Peace for such county, riding, parts, or division, in Quarter Sessions or some special sessions assembled, as mentioned in the Act passed in the third year of the reign of His said late Majesty, intituled "An Act to settle and describe the divisions of Counties and the limits of Cities and Boroughs in England and Wales, in so far as respects the Election of Members to serve in Parliament," shall, conformably to the said last-mentioned Act, divide such county, riding, parts, or division into convenient polling districts, and assign one of such district to each polling place."

And whereas by another Act, passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixteenth and seventeenth years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to limit the time for proceeding to Election in Counties and Boroughs in England and Wales, and for Polling at Elections for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for other purposes," it is enacted—"That it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, from time to time, hereafter, on Petition from the Justices in Quarter Sessions assembled of any county, riding, parts, or division of any county, other than any county of a city or of a town in England and Wales, representing that it would be expedient that any polling place or places mentioned in the said petition should cease to be such, and that any other place or places mentioned in the said petition should be substituted in lieu thereof, and praying that such alteration and substitution might be made, to declare that the said alteration and substitution shall be made in respect of all or any of the places mentioned in the said petition; and the said declaration shall be certified under the hands of one of the Clerks in Ordinary of Her Majesty's Privy Council, and when so certified shall be published in the London Gazette, and shall then be of the same force and effect as if the same had been expressly made by the authority of Parliament."

And whereas the Justices of the Peace acting in and for the West Riding of the county of York, in General Quarter Sessions assembled at Wakefield, in the said riding, on Tuesday, the sixth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, have presented their Petition to Her Majesty, representing that some of the existing polling places within the said West Riding are found to be inconvenient; and the number of the polling places insufficient, and humbly praying Her Majesty in Council that Her Majesty would be graciously pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to appoint the townships or places of Brighouse, Sherburn, Tadcaster, Bilton with Harrogate, Boroughbridge, Sowerby Bridge, and Scissett, in the said West Riding, to be polling places for the said riding, and to appoint Sedbergh, in the Dent polling district, in the said riding, to be the polling place for that district, instead of Dent, and also to appoint Dobscoth, in the New Delph polling district, in the said riding, to be the polling place for that district, instead of New Delph, and to discontinue the said townships or places of Dent and New Delph, and also the township or place of Aberford, in the said riding, as polling places for the said riding.

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, having taken the said petition into consideration doth, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, declare, order, and direct that the townships or places of Brighouse, Sherburn, Tadcaster, Bilton-with-Harrogate, Boroughbridge, Sowerby Bridge, and Scissett, in the said West Riding, shall be polling places for the said riding; and that Sedbergh, in