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Buckingham Palace, February 6, 1866.

THIS day Her Majesty 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 carriage, by the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, Lord Colville of Culross, officiating for the Lord Great Chamberlain (the Lord Willoughby de Eresby), the Deputy Earl Marshal, Garter King of Arms, and Black Rod, and proceeded into the House in the usual order;—the crown was borne by the Marquis of Lansdowne, the sword of state by the Lord President, and the cap of maintenance by the Marquis of Winchester.

Her Majesty being seated on the Throne, and the Great Officers of State and others standing in their respective places on the right and left, Black Rod was sent with a message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, commanding their immediate attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to deliver to the Lord Chancellor the following most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, which Her Majesty commanded his Lordship to read, and which he accordingly did:

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

IT is with great satisfaction that I have recourse to your assistance and advice.

I have recently declared my consent to a marriage between my daughter Princess Helena and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein Sonderbourg-Augustenburg. I trust this union may be prosperous and happy.

The death of my beloved uncle the King of the Belgians has affected me with profound grief. I feel great confidence, however, that the wisdom which he evinced during his reign will animate his successor, and preserve for Belgium her independence and prosperity.

My relations with Foreign Powers are friendly and satisfactory, and I see no cause to fear any disturbance of the general Peace.

The meeting of the fleets of France and England in the ports of the respective countries has tended to cement the amity of the two nations, and to prove to the World their friendly concert in the promotion of Peace.

I have observed with satisfaction that the United States, after terminating successfully the severe

struggle in which they were so long engaged, are wisely repairing the ravages of civil war. The Abolition of Slavery is an event calling forth the cordial sympathies and congratulations of this country, which has always been foremost in showing its abhorrence of an institution repugnant to every feeling of justice and humanity.

I have at the same time the satisfaction to inform you that the exertions and perseverance of my Naval Squadron have reduced the Slave Trade on the West Coast of Africa within very narrow limits.

A correspondence has taken place between my Government and that of the United States with respect to injuries inflicted on American commerce by cruisers under the Confederate flag. Copies of this correspondence will be laid before you.

The renewal of diplomatic relations with Brazil has given me much satisfaction; and I acknowledge with pleasure that the good offices of my Ally the King of Portugal have contributed essentially to this happy result.

I have to regret the interruption of peace between Spain and Chili. The good offices of my Government, in conjunction with those of the Government of the Emperor of the French, have been accepted by Spain, and it is my earnest hope that the causes of disagreement may be removed in a manner honourable and satisfactory to both countries.

The negotiations which have been long pending in Japan, and which have been conducted with great ability by my minister in that country, in conjunction with the representatives of my allies in Japan, have been brought to a conclusion which merits my entire approbation. The existing Treaties have been ratified by the Mikado; it has been stipulated that the tariff shall be revised in a manner favourable to commerce, and that the indemnity due under the terms of the Convention of October, 1864, shall be punctually discharged.

I have concluded a Treaty of commerce with the Emperor of Austria, which I trust will open to that empire the blessings of extended commerce, and be productive of important benefits to both countries.

The deplorable events which have occurred in the Island of Jamaica have induced me to provide at once for an impartial inquiry, and for the due maintenance of authority during that inquiry, by appointing a distinguished military officer as Governor and Commander of the Forces. I have given him the assistance of two able and learned Commissioners, who will aid him in examining