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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1884.

Her Majesty's Most Gracious Speech, delivered by the Lords Commissioners to both Houses of Parliament on Thursday, October 23, 1884.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE brought you together after a recess unusually short in order that you may be enabled at once to give your further consideration to the great subject of the Representation of the People in Parliament.

I continue to maintain relations of amity with all Foreign Powers.

The information received from the Soudan includes painful uncertainties; but the energy, courage, and resource conspicuously displayed by General Gordon in the successful defence of Khartoum, deserve my warm recognition.

The advance of my troops to Dongola has for its object the rescue and security of that gallant officer, and of those who have so faithfully co-operated with him.

In Egypt itself I am using my best endeavours to promote further improvement; and I have given my support to the Egyptian Government in the difficult financial position in which it has been left through the failure of the recent Conference.

I have to regret that circumstances have occurred on the south-western frontier of the Transvaal which demand my vigilant attention. In conjunction with the Government of the Cape Colony I am engaged in considering the means which may be required to secure the faithful observance of the Convention of the present year.

Papers on this subject will be presented to you at an early date.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

The operations in the Soudan will render it necessary to ask from you a further pecuniary provision.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Bill for the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise will at once be introduced.

In conclusion, I humbly and most anxiously trust that the blessing of Almighty God may attend upon your labours.

Foreign Office, October 23, 1884.

IT is hereby notified that the Right Honourable Earl Granville, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has this day received an official communication from the French Ambassador at this Court, announcing that the Ports and Roadsteads of the North and of

the West Coasts of the Island of Formosa will be placed in a state of blockade from this day, and that a delay of three days will be given to friendly vessels to complete their cargoes and to quit the places under blockade.

It is further notified that a Telegram has also been this day received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris stating that the following Notice appeared in the Journal Officiel of this morning, and that a copy of it had been communicated to His Excellency by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs:—

NOTIFICATION DU BLOCUS DU LITTORAL DE L'ILE FORMOSE.

NOUS, soussigné, Vice Amiral Commandant en Chef les forces navales Françaises dans l'extreme Orient, agissant en vertu des pouvoirs qui nous appartiennent, déclarons: qu'à partir du 23 Octobre 1884, tous les ports et rades de l'île Formose, compris entre le Cap Sud ou Cap Nansha et la Baie Soo-au, en passant par l'ouest et le nord (ces points placés: le premier, par 21° 55' latitude nord et 118° 30' longitude est de Paris; le second, par 24° 30' latitude nord et 119° 33' longitude est de Paris) seront tenus en état de blocus effectif par les forces navales placées sous notre commandement et que les bâtiments amis auront un délai de trois jours pour achever leur chargement et quitter les lieux bloqués. Il sera procédé contre tout bâtiment qui tenterait de violer ledit blocus conformément aux lois internationales et aux traités en vigueur. A bord du cuirassé Français "Bayard," le 20 Octobre 1884.

(Signé) COURBET.

(Translation).

NOTIFICATION OF THE BLOCKADE OF THE COAST OF THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA.

WE, the undersigned, Vice-Admiral Commander-in-Chief of the French Naval Forces in the far East, acting in virtue of the powers which belong to us, declare: that, commencing on the 23rd of October, 1884, all the ports and roadsteads of the Island of Formosa included between South Cape or Cape Nan-sha and the Soo-au Bay, passing west and north (the situation of these points being: the first in 21° 55' north lat. and 118° 30' long. east of Paris, and the second in 24° 30' north lat. and 119° 33' long. east of Paris) will be maintained in a state of effective blockade by the naval forces placed under our command, and that friendly ships will be allowed a delay of three days to effect their loading and to leave the blockaded places. Any ship attempt-