

ESTIMATE No. 4.—(See p. 4.)  
BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Treasury Chambers,  
23 May 1846.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

SIR ROBERT PEEL having informed the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that Her Majesty has been for some time past subjected to great inconvenience from the insufficient accommodation which Buckingham Palace affords to Her Majesty and her Family, and that he considers it indispensable to Her Majesty's comfort that an addition should be made to the Palace, and that the whole subject should be brought under the consideration of Parliament;

Sir Robert Peel having also informed the Board that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the following public Officers and Noblemen as Members of a Commission for the purpose of considering the Plans and Estimates which may be submitted for effecting the improvement and enlargement of the Palace, and of afterwards superintending the application of any funds which may be provided for carrying them into effect;

viz.,

The First Lord of the Treasury,  
The Chancellor of the Exchequer,  
The First Commissioner of Woods, &c.,  
The Earl de Grey,  
The Earl of Lincoln,  
The Lord Francis Egerton,

all of whom have accepted the trust which Her Majesty has committed to them;

I am therefore to desire that you will submit to the above-named Commissioners all Plans and Estimates relative to the improvement or enlargement of Buckingham Palace, in order that, before any further measures be taken, the Plans and Estimates of the work may receive their deliberate approbation.

Commissioners of Woods, &c.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *John Young.*

Sir,

Office of Woods, &c., 3 August 1846.

In pursuance of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to this department, of which I enclose a copy, I have to request that you will submit to the members of the Commission therein named a report upon the nature and extent of the insufficiency of accommodation complained of in Buckingham Palace, together with such plans, elevations and estimates as in your judgment would best provide for its improvement and enlargement.

Edward Blore, Esq.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Morpeth.*

My Lord.

4, Manchester-square, 4 August 1846.

In compliance with the instructions I have had the honour to receive in a letter from your Lordship, dated the 3d instant, that "I should, in pursuance of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Department of Woods and Forests, submit to the members of a Commission therein named a report upon the nature and extent of the insufficiency of accommodation complained of in Buckingham Palace, together with such plans, elevations and estimates as in my judgment would best provide for its improvement and enlargement;" I beg leave to state that I have long been aware of the extreme inconvenience to which Her Majesty personally, the juvenile members of the Royal Family, and the whole of the Royal Establishment have been subjected, in consequence of the insufficiency of Buckingham Palace in point of accommodation. To enumerate the whole of these inconveniences would require a very lengthened report, and involve a multitude of minute details, which, though not altogether irrelevant to the subject, would not materially assist the object in view; it will, therefore, I conceive, be quite sufficient for the present purpose to select a few of the more urgent cases as illustrations of the very pressing necessity for such an extension of the Palace as may be calculated to meet some of these wants, and the re-modelling of some parts of the interior of the present building as may render them more convenient with reference to other wants.

In the first place,—As regards Her Majesty's personal convenience and comfort, it must be observed that the portion of the Palace occupied by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Albert as private apartments is in the North Wing; that they were not calculated originally for a married Sovereign, the head of a family; that the basement of this wing is also used by the Lord Chamberlain's department for store-rooms, workshops, &c., there being no accommodation in any other part of the Palace for these services; the consequence of this arrangement is, not only that the noise and smell from these workshops, in which cabinet-makers, upholsterers, smiths, &c., are constantly at work (independently of the obvious impropriety of such services being performed in a part of the building so contiguous to the Royal