

ful, ambiguous myth, but of historic mystery, that glimmers with lucid points irradiated by the page of revelation, over the unravelled scroll of the past. He stand before us first the representative and symbol of a world destroyed and a world regenerated and saved, and he rises again before our minds after his fall, the representative of two worlds a second time, two worlds almost as distinct as the world destroyed and the world saved. Two Mogul, the Tartar, the Malay, and the Hindoo, with their kindred races, are the postdiluvian children of the man who was commissioned to save one world in the ark, and whose very fall was made the ground to create another. Asia beyond the Indus is all purely postdiluvian Noachic. These nations, with their boasted antiquity and their astonishing monuments that exceed all that even Egypt can display, are still the youngest of our race. They have achieved wonders in the labour of solid structures that seem to have required ages to finish, and of which all tradition has been lost. The art that produced them meant by these to give a symbolic impersonation to truth that needed an expounder, but the truth, whatever it be, lies hidden in these monuments, and the interpreter has not yet come. Neither Veda nor Shashtra suffices to expound them, and the learned Brahmin cannot explain their origin. They stand out the monuments of those postdiluvian sons of Noah, who as they spread, perpetuated their traces without their names, and leave us thus in the midst of wonders to ask who has reared them. We wait for the interpreter. They prophesy a future as they record a past, and the prophecy of the solid wall will come to light when the plaster of the history is washed away. Men must speak in figures until the figure has impressed the forms of its transient coating, and when the work is done, the coating and the plaster, the veil and the vesture falls away, and the sanctity of truth stands forth in all its beauty to the gaze and the admiration, the love and the reverence of holy contemplation. The great sanctuary has already been opened by the life and death of the Son of God, and in Him we see all antiquity engraven upon monuments more durable than the granite block that refers us back to times whose records have perished save in the memory of Him to whom the past perishes not. He holds the key that opens the sanctuary, and whoever is wise will knock at this gate, until he hears that voice that bids him enter—and sits down to the unearthly words of Him who once on earth did say.—*Learn*  
N. York Churchmen.

### News Department.

Extracts from latest English Papers.

HOUSE OF LORDS—THURSDAY, MAY 7.  
THE ROYAL SPEECH.

The seventeenth Parliament of the United Kingdom, (the fifth summoned during the present reign,) and the second session of 1857, were to-day formally inaugurated by a Royal speech. The occasion had been looked forward to with considerable interest, owing to the anxiety of the public to learn the intention of ministers upon the great political questions of the day; notwithstanding, therefore, the absence of the Sovereign, the attendance of both peers and commoners was exceedingly numerous. The auditory also included many peeresses, ladies, and distinguished strangers, whose eagerness to hear the Royal address equalled that of the crowds of spectators assembled either below or within the bar.

Shortly after two o'clock the Lords Commissioners, in their peers' robes, took their seats at the foot of the throne, and the Usher of the Black Rod was directed to summon the Commons to hear the commission read. In a few minutes, the Speaker, attended by the Sergeant at Arms, several of the ministers, and as many members of the lower house as could be accommodated at the bar, appeared before their lordships in obedience to the summons.

The Lord Chancellor then intimated that as it was not convenient to her Majesty to be present in person, she had been pleased to direct a commission to issue under the great seal, empowering the Lords Commissioners to do, in her name, all such acts and things as were necessary for the opening of the session.

The commission having been read by the clerk at the table, the Lord Chancellor, amidst profound silence, delivered the following royal speech:—

*My Lords and Gentlemen.*—We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty has availed herself of the earliest opportunity of having recourse to your advice and assistance after the dissolution of the last Parliament; and her Majesty trusts that there will be found sufficient time during the present session to enable

you satisfactorily to deal with various important matters, some of which had occupied the attention of Parliament in the beginning of this year.

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that the general aspect of affairs in Europe affords a well grounded confidence in the continuance of peace.

All the main stipulations of the Treaty of Paris have been carried into execution, and it is to be hoped that what remains to be done in regard to those matters will be speedily accomplished.

The negotiations upon the subject of the differences which had arisen between the King of Prussia and the Swiss Confederation, in regard to the affairs of Neuchâtel, are drawing to a close, and will, her Majesty trusts, be terminated by an arrangement honourable and satisfactory to all parties.

The negotiations in which her Majesty has been engaged with the Government of the United States; and with the Government of Honduras, in regard to the affairs of Central America, have not yet been brought to a close.

We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that a treaty of peace between her Majesty and the Shah of Persia was signed at Paris on the 4th of March by her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and by the ambassador of the Shah; and her Majesty will give directions that this treaty shall be laid before you as soon as the ratifications thereof shall have been duly exchanged.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her regret that, at the date of the latest advices from China the differences which had arisen between the high commissioner at Canton, and her Majesty's civil and naval officers in China still remained unadjusted. But her Majesty has sent to China a plenipotentiary fully instructed to deal with all matters of difference, and that plenipotentiary will be supported by an adequate naval and military force, in the event of such assistance becoming necessary.

We are commanded to inform you that her Majesty, in conjunction with several other European powers, has concluded a treaty with the King of Denmark for the redemption of the Sound Dues. This treaty, together with a separate convention between her Majesty and the King of Denmark, completing the arrangement, will be laid before you, and her Majesty's engagements thereby ~~conferred~~ ~~to be~~ ~~falling~~ ~~the~~ ~~your~~ ~~consideration~~.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons.*—Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the present year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with a careful attention to economy, and with a due regard to the efficiency of the departments of the public service to which they severally relate.

*My Lords and Gentlemen.*—Her Majesty commands us to recommend to your earnest consideration measures which will be proposed to you for the consolidation and improvement of the law.

Bills will be submitted to you for improving the laws relating to the testamentary and matrimonial jurisdiction now exercised by the ecclesiastical courts, and also for checking fraudulent breaches of trust.

Her Majesty commands us to express to you her heartfelt gratification at witnessing the continued well-being and contentment of her people, and the progressive development of productive industry throughout her dominions.

Her Majesty confidently commits to your wisdom and care the great interests of her empire, and fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may be vouchsafed to your deliberations, and may lead you to conclusions conducive to the objects of her Majesty's constant solicitude, the welfare and happiness of her loyal and faithful people.

At the conclusion of the speech the Commons withdrew, and prayers having been read, their lordships adjourned till 5 p. m.

The ceremonial part, if it can be called so, of the assemblage of a Parliament and the election of a Speaker have passed before our eyes this week. What is chiefly characteristic in it is the absence of ceremony—which it is the instinct of Englishmen to get rid of—and the strict adherence to forms; and forms are historical and for the most part useful, and they are gone through with a strong internal respect for them, yet with an outward ease and carelessness which serve as a compromise, as it were, between that respect and our national dislike of stiffness and parade—a tacit protest against being supposed to obey the form for the form's sake. From the first moment, when a Whig member rises in his place and moves simply "that Mr. John Evelyn Denison do take the chair," you have the plain business-like usages of a popular assembly,

governed at every step by a religious regard to precedent and order, without which indeed no popular assembly can transact the most trivial affairs. And how these usages carry you back to older times! Who could dispense, although they may seem, with these twice repeated "petitions" for the "undoubted rights" of the Commons—for freedom of speech, personal immunity, and a favourable construction of their words and acts—petitions which, in their slight incongruities of phrase, breathe so exactly the spirit of the Constitution, and recall, in their good, terse, sturdy Elizabethan English, and in the mixture of proud submission with jealous independence, the contrast between the old status of the house and its actual position? Who would not preserve the gravely condescending but equally brief and business-like reply, and the nice but significant attention to propriety of address whereby the gentleman who is plain "Mr. Denison" till the words conveying the Royal approval have passed the Chancellor's lips becomes "Mr. Speaker" directly afterwards?

Mr. Speaker's deportment on his accession to his dignity gave satisfaction to experienced observers, and was deemed to promise well for his future career. The congratulations which it devolved on Mr. Walpole to tender came gracefully from him, and the absence of Mr. Disraeli, which gave him the opportunity of appearing in an amiable light, may be considered a happy accident. It is remarked as ominous by the malevolent Liberals that the motion was intrusted by Lord Palmerston to a Whig of the old school, who led the opposition to Lord John Russell's Reform Bill, Lord Harry Vane.—*London Guardian*.

The Queen has been pleased to order a *congé d'États* to pass the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, empowering the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Norwich to elect a Bishop of that see, the same being void by the resignation of the Right Rev. Father in God Dr. Samuel Hinds, late Bishop thereof; and her Majesty has been pleased to recommend to the said Dean and chapter the Hon. and Rev. John Thomas Pelham, M.A., to be by them elected Bishop of the said see of Norwich.—*London Gazette of Friday*.

The resignation of another Bishop makes the inquiry more common. *How Bishops who have their sees should be addressed?* They must, of course, retain their title understood that they are to be called by their family name, "Bishop Bloomfield" &c. It has also been decided by the highest authority that they do not lose their temporal rank, and, therefore, are still to be addressed as "the Lord Bishop."

We are glad to find her Majesty has been pleased to grant Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K.C.B., the usual service pensioner the loss of sight of one eye, of which the gallant admiral was deprived by the explosion of a Russian infernal machine on board the *Exmouth* in the Baltic—*Plymouth Mail*.

IRLAND.

The Dublin Protestant Association recently presented a memorial to Lord-Lieutenant, complaining of outrages against Protestants during the late election, adding they had observed—

"With intense pain and indignation, that for a series of years past faithless to Protestant principles has been looked upon unworthy the countenance of the Executive authorities, especially in Ireland; and that the profession of principles avowedly hostile to the British constitution has been a sure passport to Executive favour." "Executive," they said, "seems to have become a dexter; while the lives of Protestants are placed in jeopardy, liberty of conscience outraged, the laws void, and truth dishonoured."

Lord Carlisle replied, although he had never recognised this self-styled association, still, out of deference to its respectable members, he had given its representations consideration. In future he will adopt a different course:—

As for the first (thin his recollection, he has in the office which holds under her Majesty, in common with his peers and official colleagues, been exposed to real and highly disrespectful and disparaging charges an association of persons in no way authorized him in any collective capacity, he must with decline to receive any further addresses or communications from the body styling itself the Protestant Association.

The association, denying that it had any intention of using language, and standing upon the rights of members "as citizens" to address the Lord-Lieutenant, as it had addressed the Queen, the House of Commons, and the Secretaries of State.