

LONDON.
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.
HOUSE OF LORDS, JANUARY 15.

OPENING THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

The Lord Chancellor briefly stated, that as for certain causes, his Majesty could not be present for the purpose of opening the Session of Parliament, a Commission under the great Seal had been issued for that purpose. He therefore had, in the first instance, to move, that the house do adjourn during pleasure, to afford their Lordships an opportunity to robe. Accordingly the proceeding took place.

On the resuming of the House, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President (Earl Camden,) the Lord Privy Seal (Earl of Westmorland) and the Master of Horse, took their seats on the Woolsack, as commissioners for declaring the causes of the opening of the Session of Parliament, under the authority of the above mentioned commission. Their Lordships, as well as the Peers present, were in their robes of state.

Mr. Quarme, acting usher of the black rod, was then despatched to desire the attendance of the Commons in order to hear the commission read for the opening of Parliament accordingly. Shortly after, a very considerable number of members appeared at the bar, with the Speaker at their head; when the Lord Chancellor, as organ of the Commissioners, addressed the Assembly as follows:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Forasmuch as his Majesty, for certain reasons and causes cannot be present here this day in his royal person, in order to open and hold this Parliament, a commission has been issued under the great seal for that purpose, authorising certain Lords therein named to act as commissioners, to declare and signify the causes of opening and holding this Parliament in His Majesty's name and behalf, which Commission you will now hear read."

The Commission as adverted to by the Lord Chancellor, was then read. It was of considerable length, and referred to the various Commissions issued by command of His Majesty for proroguing the Parliament from the 22d day of June until the first of November last, on which day it assembled, pursuant to His Majesty's last Commission. It then went on to state that the Lords Commissioners, whose names were specified in the present Commission, or any three or more of them, were thereby authorised to notify and declare the reasons and causes for opening and holding the present Session of Parliament. The Commissioners so empowered were—

Charles Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Edward Venables Lord Archbishop of York, John Lord Eldon (Lord Chancellor of Great-Britain,) John Jeffries, Earl Camden, John Earl of Westmorland, James Duke of Montrose, Heaneage Earl of Aylesford, Henry Earl of Bathurst, Robert Banks Earl of Liverpool, Dudley Earl of Harrowby, Richard Lord Wellesley, Henry Lord Mulgrave, and Edward Lord Ellenborough.

And states that the Commission proceeded on the authority of letters Patent under the Great Seal, &c.

The Commission being read,

The Lord Chancellor again addressed the Assembly:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Acting by virtue, and under the authority given to us and the other Lords of His Majesty's Commission now read, amongst other things, we are authorised to notify and declare the reasons and causes for opening and holding the Session of Parliament; and we have only in the present instance to discharge our duty by calling your earnest and immediate attention to the afflicting circumstance of His Majesty's present indisposition; in order that you may provide as far as may be possible, for the care and preservation of the sacred person of His Majesty, for the due maintenance of his Royal dignity, and for the personal exercise of the Royal authority, in such a manner and to such extent, as the exigencies of the case may appear to require."

The Commons then withdrew from the bar and returned to their own house.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then rose and said, that the House was in full possession both of the motive of the measure which he was about to propose, and of the necessity which called for it; as they were aware that the measure was to be by bill, and had already heard those arguments which had induced them to prefer that mode of proceeding, he felt it unnecessary for him, after all the debates which had taken place upon it, to do more than merely move for leave to bring it in, accordingly he moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the administration of the Royal authority, for the care of the Royal person during His Majesty's illness, and for the resumption of the Royal authority when His Majesty recovers.

Mr. William Smith did not rise to retard proceedings which had been already too dilatory, but to express his very great regret, that the early adoption of other measures had not been resorted to, in order to prevent delays and difficulties which had occurred.

The motion for leave to bring in the bill was then agreed to *nem. con.* and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Secretary Rider, Lord Clive, the Attorney and Solicitor General, and Mr. Robert Dundas were ordered to prepare and bring in the same.

—O—
DOWNING-STREET, JANUARY 14.

Official Letter from Lord Wellington to Lord Liverpool, dated Cartaxo, December 22.

MY LORD,

The enemy still continue in their position at Santarem, in which no alteration of consequence has been made since I addressed your Lordship on the 15th inst.

They continue to collect boats on the Zezere, over which river they have two or three bridges.

The enemy have shewn themselves on the Lower Coa, according to the last accounts from General Silveira, but not, in his opinion, in such force as to pass the river. The reports which I had received of the march of the troops of the 9th corps towards Madrid have not been confirmed.

The last accounts which I received from Cadiz are of the 9th instant. I have, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

—O—
The following extract of a despatch from Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Cartaxo, December 29, has been received at the office of the Earl of Liverpool.

Since I addressed you on the 22d instant, I have reports that the enemy's troops which had retired from the Lower Beira in the end of last and beginning of this month, had crossed the Coa at Almeida, on the 15th and 16th inst. and had moved into Upper Beira, by the roads of Pinhel and Trancoso, and of Alverea and Celerico.

I have not been able to ascertain exactly the body of troops which have entered by this frontier, but it is stated to be 16 or 17,000 men, and consists, I should imagine, not only of Gardanne's division, but of some, if not the whole, of the 9th corps.

By the last accounts I have had of these troops, the advanced guard had arrived at Maceira, in the Valley of Mondego, on the 22d, and their progress has not been rapid. But if they have continued their march, they ought by this time to be in communication with the enemy's post in the neighbourhood of Thomar.

General Silveira had retired with his division of troops to Moimento de Beim; but he and General Miller and Colonel Wilson were prepared to act across the Mondego upon the flanks and rear of the enemy's troops, the whole of which it appears were marching on the left of that river.

No alteration has been made in the position of the enemy's troops in front of this army, excepting that a detachment of 2 or 3000 cavalry and infantry had moved to Lower Beira, across the Zezere towards Castello Branco, probably with a view to gain intelligence.

By accounts from Estremadura, it appears that General Mendizabal and Ballasteres have had some success in their operations against a French division belonging to Mortier's corps, which had been stationed in Lierna. They have obliged this division to retire from Ooudalcanal with some loss.

JANUARY 16.

The Parliament was opened yesterday under the authority of the commission agreed upon by the two houses. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Duke of Montrose, and Lord Liverpool, acted as commissioners for that purpose.

The Lord Chancellor delivered a short speech, calling the attention of Parliament "to the afflicting circumstance of his Majesty's indisposition, and to the necessity of making due and suitable provision for the care of his Majesty's sacred person, the maintenance of the royal dignity, and the exercise of the royal authority."

In the House of Commons, the Regency Bill was brought in, read a first time, and ordered for a second reading this day.

The Heligoland mail which arrived here yesterday brought very few letters, especially from the continent, the communication having been obstructed by the inclemency of the season. By a letter from Hamburg, of the 5th, it appears that the French flag, as we anticipated, was displayed in that city on the 1st instant, when its formal annexation to France took place. The Senate, however, continued to discharge their functions; but it was understood, that their authority was to cease as soon as a new government was organized. Davoust, it was expected, would be appointed Lieutenant or Governor General of the Hanse Towns and districts thereunto belonging.

Yesterday, despatches were received at the office of Lord Liverpool from Lord Wellington, brought home by the Cormorant sloop, of 16 guns, Capt. Oake, which left the Tagus on the 31st ult. The despatches are dated from Cartaxo the 30th, and printed journals to the 31st ult.

It appears by the official and other advices, that no operations except trifling affairs of outposts, have occurred since the date of the former accounts. The hostile armies remain in their old positions, nor is it probable that the weather will permit any decisive struggle for some weeks to come. In the mean time General Massena has thrown three bridges across the Zezere, and has received a reinforcement of about 15,000 men, and more are daily expected; on the other hand the reinforcements which have been sent to Lord Wellington, amount likewise to about 15 or 16,000 men, so that in point of actual reinforcement the two armies are equal.

By the same conveyance, mails from Malta and Gibraltar were received. We have extracted the only material article of their contents, by which it appears that the French General Macdonald has made some retrograde movement in Catalonia.

His Majesty's ship Bulwark, Capt. Fleming, has arrived at Cadiz, from Vera Cruz and Havanna with the following cargo:

1,566,000 dollars on account of government.
2,136,000 ditto for the trade.
3000 muskets.
550 uniforms.
638 quintals of gun powder.
A quantity of musket balls, shoes, cochineal, indigo, &c.

She performed the voyage from Havannah in 29 days.

Two French frigates made their escape from Brest,

on the 29th ult. and are at sea; destination not known. They are supposed to have taken a course to the Isle of France. Two other frigates are reported to be nearly ready for sea.

JANUARY 17.

Our Plymouth correspondent says, that letters from our army in Portugal state Lord Wellington to have received intelligence of the retreat of 22,000 men, who were on their march to join Massena. They had reached the frontiers of Portugal when they received counter-orders. Lord Wellington's last despatch mentions nothing of this retreat.

We have received Paris papers to the 8th. They are not of much importance. The *Moniteur* mentions in a prominent manner the arrival of an *Aid-de-Camp* of the Emperor of Russia with letters to Bonaparte, who conversed with him for more than an hour. We suppose the letters and this interview are announced in this marked way, in order to contradict reports stated to be very prevalent at Augsburg, of a war being on the point of breaking out between France and Russia.

We have received a copy of the regency bill.—Except in those points which are known to our readers, it differs little from the regency bill of 1789. In the latter bill the Queen had the power to nominate or remove the great officers of his Majesty's household; in the present bill she is not to have that power. The office of Lord Chamberlain, now vacant, is not to be filled up during the continuance of the act, but the duties are to be performed by the Vice-Chamberlain. Some surprise has been expressed at the clause restraining the regent from giving peerages, which restrains the Regent from granting "any rank, title, or dignity of the peerage, by letters patent, writ of summons, or any other manner whatever, or to summon any person to the house of Lords, by any title to which such person shall be heir apparent, or to determine the abeyance, in favor of any of the coheirs thereof, by writ of summons, or otherwise." The clause is taken almost verbatim from the regency bill of 1789.

By the construction strangely put upon this clause, calling up heirs apparent, is construed to calling up eldest sons after their father's death.—There are two ways of creating Peers; one by Patent, the usual way; the other by Writ of Summons; this last mode is usual in calling up to the house of Peers, during their father's life time, the heirs apparent of Peers.

Thus the Marquesses of Douglas, Huntly, and Blandford, and Lord St. Asaph, and many others have been created Peers in this way, and now sit in the house with their fathers.

This way of making Peers is of the most extensive, as it confers a Barony in fee, or in other words a peerage to the Peer and his heirs general; whereas a creation by patent only continues the peerage to the special heir in the patent mentioned.

This clause is to restrict the regent from granting any Peerage by patent, or from summoning to the House of Peers the eldest sons of Peers during the life time of their father.

Upwards of 600 sail of ships have arrived this year at Quebec for timber, and the exertions which are making to give effect to the same, by the erection of steam engines, &c. cannot fail to render it more advantageous to Great-Britain, as it will supersede, in a great measure, the importations from Norway.

The Morning Chronicle of Monday says, "every thing tends to shew the propriety of yielding to what is known to have been the expressed hope of his Majesty after his last illness—that if ever it should be the divine will to afflict him in the same way again, a provision might be made to prevent the necessity of his coming back to business until he should be perfectly recovered."

Among the other evils we are led to dread in the event of a change of ministry, is the abandonment of our allies in Spain and Portugal, from a pusillanimous feeling the Opposition possess of the inutility of resisting Bonaparte. The Morning Chronicle is already laying grounds for withdrawing Lord Wellington and his brave victorious army, which has gained as more glory and substantial advantage, which has checked the enemy move effectually even in his great efforts, than any other British army has done since the accession of Bonaparte to supreme authority. That paper of Monday says "we have to dread the waste of money in maintaining our army until spring, and we wish we could truly say that the expences could be borne without the most serious inconvenience." Lord Wellington has assured Ministers that he could beat the French but at the expence of 15,000 English lives, which Ministers said our resources could not afford. If the state of our population be such that we cannot afford the loss of lives necessary to insure victory, what must follow even from a successful battle, and what right have we to engage in such enterprizes."

Such was the language of the Party Gazette, on Monday last. A refutation of the falsehoods, or an exposure of the malice, absurdity and criminal dastardliness of its reasoning, is within the compass of the understanding and knowledge of any man. We shall not therefore occupy space in the task, but it is of great importance to observe the spirit, the views of our governors that are to be, how eager they are to desert our best interests, and basely to submit their neck to the yoke of the enemy.

Windsor Castle, January 15.

His Majesty has had a good night, and is in all respects as well as he was yesterday.

Windsor Castle, January 16.

His Majesty's state is little different from what it has been the last two days.

Windsor Castle, January 17.

His Majesty remains as well as he was yesterday.

JANUARY 19.

The riot among the Danish seamen, who refused to