

SPEECH

OF

King William IV.,

On dissolving Parliament, on *FRIDAY*,
April 24th, 1831.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have come to meet you for the purpose of Proroguing this Parliament with a view to its immediate dissolution."

"I have been induced to resort to this measure for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of my People, in the only way in which it can be most conveniently and authentically expressed, for the express purpose of making such changes in the representation as circumstances may appear to require, and which, founded upon the acknowledged principles of the constitution, may tend at once to uphold the just rights and prerogatives of the Crown, and to give security to the liberties of the People.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I thank you for the provision you have made for the maintenance of the honour and dignity of the Crown, and I offer my special acknowledgments for the arrangement you have made for the state and comfort of my Royal Consort. I have also to thank you for the supplies you have furnished for the public service. I have observed with satisfaction your endeavours to introduce a strict economy into every branch of that service, and I trust that the early attention of a new parliament, which I shall forthwith direct to be called, will be applied to the prosecution of that important subject.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"I am happy to inform you that the friendly intercourse which exists between myself and foreign powers, affords the best hopes of a continuation of peace, to the preservation of which my most anxious endeavours shall be continually directed.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"In resolving to recur to the sense of my people on the present circumstances of the country, I have been influenced only by a desire, and personal anxiety, for the contentment and happiness of my subjects, to promote which I rely with confidence on your continued and zealous assistance."

His Majesty then turned round to the Lord Chancellor, and said—

"My pleasure is, that the Parliament shall be prorogued, and forthwith, to Tuesday the 10th day of May next."

The Lord Chancellor immediately said,

"My Lords and Gentlemen, it is his Majesty's royal will and pleasure, that this Parliament be prorogued to Tuesday, the 10th of May next, to be then here holden, and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued till Tuesday, the 10th day of May next."

As soon as his Majesty had concluded, he descended from his chair, and returned into his room, from whence his Majesty immediately proceeded to the Palace.

His Majesty bore the uniform of an Admiral; and, after putting on his dresses, read the above Speech in the most fine, distinct, and audible manner, so as to be heard with more ease and accuracy, than probably any speaker who ever uttered a word in that House.

