



*The Parliament given the right
to be heard*

ALABAMA, MONDAY, 1st NOVEMBER 1858

The Right Honorable the Governor General, has received the Commands of
Her Majesty the QUEEN to make known the following provisions hereafter
made by Her Majesty to the Princes, the Chiefs and the People of INDIA.

**Proclamation by the Queen in Council,
TO THE PRINCES, CHIEFS, AND PEOPLE OF INDIA.**

Victoria,

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND, AND OF THE COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES THEREIN, IS
ELIZABETH, ASIA, AFRICA, AMERICA, AND AUSTRALASIA,
Queen, Mother of the Faith.

WHEREAS, for divers weighty reasons, We have resolved, by and with the
advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament
assembled, to take upon Ourselves the Government of the Territories in INDIA
heretofore administered in trust for Us by the Honorable East India Company:

Now, therefore, We do by these Presents signify and declare that, by the
advice and consent aforesaid, We have taken upon Ourselves the said Government;
and We hereby call upon all Our Subjects within the said Territories to be faithful,
and to bear true Allegiance to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and to submit themselves
to the authority of those whom We may hereafter, from time to time, see fit to
appoint to administer the Government of Our said Territories, in Our name and on
Our behalf.

And We, regarding especial trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and
judgment of Our right-trusty and well-beloved Council and Chamberlain, CHARLES
ALICE VERNOR, COUNSESS, do hereby constitute and appoint him, the said VERNOR,
COUNSESS, to be Our first Viceroys and Governors General, in and over Our said
Territories, and to administer the Government thereof in Our name, and generally to

*And We do hereby confirm in their several Offices, Civil and Military, all
Officers now employed in the Services of the Honorable East India Company, subject
to the observation on their part.*

We do hereby signify to the Native Princes of India that all Treaties and
Engagements made with them by or under the authority of the Honorable East
India Company are by Us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained; and We
desire that they, as well as Our own Subjects, should enjoy that Prosperity and that
social Advancement which can only be secured by internal Peace and good
Government.

We hold Ourselves bound to the Natives of Our Indian Territories by the
same Obligations of Duty which bind Us to all Our other Subjects; and these
Obligations, by the Blessing of Almighty God, We shall faithfully and conscien-
tiously fulfil.

Firmly relying Ourselves on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging
with gratitude the solace of Religion, We desist from the Right and the Desire
to impose our Constitutions on any of Our Subjects. We decline to be Our Royal
Will and Pleasure that none be in any wise forced, nor molested or dissatisfied, by
reason of their Religious Faith or Observances; but that all shall alike enjoy the
equal and impartial protection of the Law; and We do strictly charge and enjoin
all those who may be in authority under Us, that they abstain from all interference
with the Religious Belief or Worship of any of Our Subjects, on pain of Our highest
Displeasure.

And it is Our further Will that, so far as may be, Our Subjects, of whatever
Race or Creed, be freely and impartially admitted to Offices in Our Service, the
Portes of which they may be qualified, by their education, ability, and integrity, duly
to discharge.

We know, and are assured, by the feelings of attachment with which the Natives
of INDIA regard the Land inherited by them from their Ancestors; and We desire to
prevent them in all Rights connected therewith, subject to the equitable demands of
the State; and We will that generally, in framing and administering the Law, due
regard be paid to the ancient Rights, Usages, and Customs of INDIA.

We deeply lament the evils and misery which have been brought upon
INDIA by the acts of avaricious Men, who have alienated their Countrymen by false
reports, and set them into open Rebellion. Our Terror has been shown by the
Suppression of that Rebellion in the field; We desire to show our Mercy, by pardon-
ing the Offences of those who have been thus misled, but who desire to return to the
path of Duty.

Altogether in our Province, with a view to stop the further extension of Abuse,
and to hasten the Pacification of Our Indian Dominions, Our Viceroys and Governor
General has held out the expectation of Pardon, on certain terms, to the great

majority of those who, in the late unhappy Disturbances, have been guilty of
Offences against our Government, and has declared the Pardon which will be
indicated on those whose Crimes have them beyond the reach of Reprehension. We
approve and confirm the said act of Our Viceroys and Governor General, and do
further announce and proclaim as follows—

Our Clemency will be extended to all Offenders, save and except those who
have been, or shall be, convicted of having directly taken part in the Murder of
British Subjects. With regard to such, the demands of Justice forbid the exercise
of Mercy.

To those who have willingly given asylum to Murderers, knowing them to
be such, or who may have acted as Leaders or Instigators in Revolt, their Lives
also can be guaranteed; but in apportioning the Penalty due to such Persons, full
consideration will be given to the circumstances under which they have been induced
to throw off their Allegiance, and large Indulgences will be shown to those whose
Grievances may appear to have originated in too credulous misconceptions of false reports
circulated by designing Men.

To all others in Arms against the Government, We hereby promise uncondi-
tional Pardon, Amnesty, and Oblivion of all Offences against Ourselves, Our Crown
and Dignity, on their return to their homes and peaceful pursuits.

It is Our Royal Pleasure that those Terms of Grace and Amnesty should
be extended to all those who comply with their Conditions before the First Day of
January next.

When, by the blessing of Providence, internal Tranquillity shall be restored,
it is Our earnest Desire to stimulate the peaceful Industry of INDIA, to promote Works
of Public Utility and Improvement, and to administer the Government for the benefit
of all Our Subjects resident therein. In their Prosperity will be Our Strength; in
their Contentment, Our Security; and in their Gratitude, Our best Reward. And may
the Gem of all Power grant to Us, and to those in authority under Us, Strength to
carry out these Our Wishes for the good of Our People.