Speech excerpt- Queen Victoria- Proclamation, by the Queen in Council, to the Princes, Chiefs and People of India

**Queen Victoria** - We hereby announce to the Native Princes of India that all treaties and engagements made with them by or under the authority of the Honourable East India Company are by Us accepted, and will be scrupulously maintained; and We look for the like observance on their part.

We desire no extension of Our present territorial possessions; and while attempted with impunity, We shall sanction no encroachment on those of others. We shall respect the rights, dignity, and honour of Native Princes as Our own; 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 those obligations, by the blessing of almighty God, We shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil.