





Wm Murray  
THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

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# A SPEECH

DELIVERED IN

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER, 1854,

BY

THE RIGHT HON. SIDNEY HERBERT, M.P.,

&c. &c.

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LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

1854.



## A SPEECH,

&c.

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MR. S. HERBERT rose and said,—Sir, the charges which have been brought against the Government to-night are of a character so serious that I hope the House will grant me their attention while I endeavour to give an answer to the statements of the right honourable gentleman the member for Droitwich, and to offer that explanation of the course of the Government which he claimed it as a right—and justly claimed it, as a member of Parliament—to exact from them. That explanation I will endeavour to give by a plain and straightforward narrative of the events in this war as they occurred, so far as they came under the direction of the Government; and the House of Commons must then judge whether, when they have considered the past conduct of the Government in the prosecution of the war, the Government are entitled to ask for further powers and further assistance for the purpose of carrying it out with vigour. Sir, the charges, as I understand them, which have been made by the right honourable baronet are many in number. He states that the army was originally sent out by the Government without any distinct plan or intention; that when, at last, the Government resolved upon a plan, it was not such a plan as was justifiable, considering the forces at their command, and the information they possessed of the power and strength of the enemy they were about to attack. The right honourable gentleman says further, that the army was too small for its object; that that army was not a well-appointed, but an ill-appointed army; and he quoted instances in which it had suffered in its efficiency from the want of due preparation on the part of the Government. He says, also, that that army was sent



army is entrenched above her own camp, and  
 sunk by her own act, her forts along the coast  
 have been destroyed by her own hand. These are the  
 results of a campaign. I ask, where can you find, in  
 a first campaign of not more than a few months  
 with such results? (Hear.) But still I hope to  
 and for that purpose our army considerably increased.  
 you, the House of Commons, think it ought to be, tell  
 (Hear, hear.) I tell you that the country is determined, at all  
 hazard and at all cost, that the army of Lord Raglan shall be  
 supported. (Loud cheers.) If the House of Commons does not  
 answer to that feeling of the country, then the House of Commons  
 must take the consequence (hear, hear), for, depend upon it, there  
 is but one feeling upon this subject. We are engaged in a war  
 which was entered upon with reluctance; we must carry it on  
 vigorously to obtain that which is the object of all war—namely,  
 peace; for peace to be obtained must be conquered. (Cheers.)  
 Let no exertions be spared which will enable us by vigorous  
 operations to gain that end. (Cheers.) I say further, if you  
 think the Government worthy to be intrusted with those powers,  
 then intrust them (hear); but I would sooner a thousand times turn  
 out one government, or ten governments, than that any other policy  
 should be adopted. (Hear, hear.) I care not in whose hands the  
 conduct of the war is placed, provided it be carried on with vigour  
 and determination; and provided the representatives of the people  
 honestly and truly carry out the will of the nation, that the noblest  
 of armies shall be assured of the means—so far as human means  
 can avail—to obtain a perfect triumph. (Loud and long continued  
 cheering.)

