

towards their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, they feel conscious that they have not borne them any hostility on account of their religious opinions, but on the contrary have treated them with kindness and liberality.

Your Petitioners, impressed with those feelings, would gladly concede to their Roman Catholic brethren every privilege that can be given consistent with the spirit and principles of the British Constitution as established at the Revolution, and guaranteed by the Act of Union. But your Petitioners have seen with concern, that concessions to the Roman Catholics, hitherto, have only produced demands, and those latterly of so alarming a nature, as, if complied with, must necessarily tend to subvert the Protestant settlement of this country, on which they firmly believe the connection between the two countries, and ultimately the security of the Empire, depends.

Your Petitioners, animated by the most lively sentiments of gratitude and affection towards your Royal Highness, which have been excited by the conduct of your Royal Highness in the exercise of the high powers now vested in you, beg leave to approach your Royal Highness with an humble but firm confidence, that, before your Royal Highness will consent to any radical change in that happy Constitution under which your Petitioners have so long enjoyed civil and religious liberty, your Royal Highness will give to a matter of so much importance the fullest consideration; and your Petitioners humbly pray, that if any further concessions are to be granted to the Roman Catholics, your Royal Highness will not consent to any that shall not be so formed as to guard against any future attacks and encroachments, and at the same time to afford perfect security to that Establishment, which your Petitioners consider vitally interwoven with the welfare and stability of this Protestant State.

We beg leave at the same time to express to your Royal Highness the high sense we entertain of your Royal Highness's goodness, in having thought proper to continue to us the blessings we have uniformly enjoyed under the administration of His Grace the Duke of Richmond.

Chas. Ecatt Sheriff, Chairman.

[Transmitted by His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, and presented by Lord Viscount Sidmouth.]

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT.

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Protestant Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Tyrone, approach your Royal Highness with sentiments of the warmest attachment to your Royal Highness's person, family, and government.

In the virtues of your Royal Highness, we recognise the surest pledge that His Majesty's Protestant subjects will ever experience; under your Royal Highness's Government, the protection which has been invariably and effectually extended to them by your illustrious house; we owe it however to your Royal Highness, to ourselves, and to our posterity, humbly and respectfully to lay at the foot of the throne our firm conviction, that the unqualified and unrestricted concessions required by our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, are incom-

patible with the principles and spirit of the British Constitution, we implore your Royal Highness graciously to continue your protection to our Constitution in Church and State, to rely on our fidelity and devotion to our Sovereign, to the honour and dignity of your Royal Highness, and to those principles which placed your royal ancestor on the throne of these realms.

Signed, in behalf of the Meeting,

Robt. W. Lowry, Sheriff of the County of Tyrone.

Omagh, January 2, 1813.

[Transmitted by His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, and presented by Lord Viscount Sidmouth.]

To His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, PRINCE REGENT of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

WE, the Protestant Noblemen, Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and other the Protestant Inhabitants of the County of Limerick, actuated by the most lively and loyal attachment to the sacred person of our most gracious King, and to the Government of the United Kingdom, as administered by your Royal Highness, humbly beg permission to lay these our sentiments of attachment and duty at the foot of the throne.

Zealously attached to those principles which have placed your illustrious house on the throne of these realms, and which (under the blessing of Providence) have exalted them to a degree of liberty, prosperity, and public happiness unparalleled in the history of nations, we most dutifully approach your Royal Highness, and respectfully submit our opinions upon the subject of Catholic Emancipation, one of the most important points which, in our humble judgment, have ever called for the consideration of the Legislature.

We are influenced by no illiberal or bigotted spirit of exclusion or oppression: most gladly would we accede to the extension of every privilege consistent with the perfect safety of those Establishments in Church and State, under which we have enjoyed security and increasing prosperity, since the period of the glorious Revolution; but while the Roman Catholics claim unqualified concession, and refuse to submit their Establishment to those wholesome ties, which the security of the Protestant Constitution requires, we deem it our duty to declare that such concession would be incompatible with the spirit of the British Constitution, and would tend to subvert the Protestant settlement of this country, and ultimately to sever the connection between Great Britain and Ireland, upon which the security of the Empire depends.

Through your Royal Highness's care, we firmly rely, that if the ancient and venerable fabric of the Constitution, under which we and our forefathers have so long enjoyed security, protection, and happiness, must now be modified, such substantial bulwarks for the defence of what may remain, may be raised, as shall firmly uphold the Protestant Establishment, and set this question at rest for ever.

George L. Massey, Chairman.

January 4, 1813.

[Transmitted by His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, and presented by Lord Viscount Sidmouth.]