

secured. The moderation of the Allies has been as unparalleled as their success; by their unanimity and disinterestedness, as well as by their valour and perseverance, they have achieved greater triumphs, and conferred more lasting benefits on mankind, than the wisest could have foreseen or the most sanguine have expected. Through them, under Providence, the sceptre of the usurper has been broken; through them, France has been restored to the paternal sway of her legitimate Sovereign, who has acquired from the experience of the past, such lessons as adversity best can teach, and has learnt during his residence in this country, the value of that inestimable blessing, a free Constitution, which Britain enjoys in greater perfection than any other nation at any other period.

But whilst we acknowledge with due gratitude and admiration, the heroic exertions of the Allied Sovereigns, the patriotism and unanimity of their subjects, the consummate skill of their Generals, and the unconquered valour of their troops, it ought never to be forgotten, that to British heroism and to British perseverance, the chief merit of those successes may most justly be ascribed. The services of the illustrious Wellington can scarcely be done justice to, and cannot be exaggerated; and those who were best entitled to be his rivals, have been the first to acknowledge his superiority. The British nation at large has submitted, not only without a murmur but with alacrity, to the severest burthens and privations, because they consider no sacrifice as painful which the public interest requires.

We should, indeed, be ungrateful if in expressing our thanks to the benefactors of Europe, we neglected to pay a due tribute to the firmness and energy which your Royal Highness and your advisers have evinced, during the most trying and most awful crisis. If you had not been sanguine when others despaired; if you had not administered to the wants of our Allies when others affirmed that our resources were exhausted; if you had not relied upon the exertions of those powers whom others considered as ruined and subdued; if you had been intimidated by the previous successes of the usurper, whom others represented as the idol both of fortune and of his subjects,—the contest must have ceased ere the objects were attained, and the fetters of Europe might still have been unbroken.

That your Royal Highness may long live to enjoy those blessings which you have, under Providence, so mainly contributed to secure, is the sincere wish, in which we humbly unite with all your grateful and loyal subjects.

Signed in our presence, and by our appointment at Wick, this 29th day of September 1814, and the seal of the Burgh is hereto appended,  
by *William Mac Leay*, Provost.

[Transmitted by *G. Sinclair, Esq.* and presented by *Viscount Sidmouth.*]

To His Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

May it please your Royal Highness,  
WE, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal sub-

jects; the Freeholders, Landholders, Justices of the Peace, and Commissioners of Supply of the County of Caithness, assembled at our Head Court, beg leave to offer to your Royal Highness our humble congratulations on the recent glorious events which have diffused so much joy throughout this empire, and throughout the world. The objects for which the contest was undertaken, have all been finally attained. The glory of our country has been elevated to a pitch which cannot be exceeded; and the nations of Europe, which have been rescued from the yoke of their oppressor, ascribe to Great Britain the chief merit of their deliverance. From our example they learnt to meet adversity with fortitude, and success with moderation; aware that no peace could be lasting, which was not founded on the sure basis of mutual advantage, they have granted to France as much as she could reasonably hope for, and more than she was entitled to expect. Having, even in the moment of triumph, when revenge and retribution were in their power, insisted upon no stipulations which were either illiberal or unjust, they have acquired as much honour by forbearance as by victory, and merited the eternal gratitude both of the Sovereign whom they restored, and of the nation whom they forgave.

The usurper, who was no less an object of hatred and of dread to his subjects than to his enemies, has been driven from his ill-gotten pre-eminence, and the legitimate Monarch of France has been recalled by the voice of his people to the throne of his ancestors. We trust that the nation will have learnt from experience, that revolutionary remedies only aggravate the evils they are intended to remove; and that the Sovereign, on his part, will never forget, that he will best secure the permanence of his government, by promoting the interests, and by maintaining the rights of his people, which, when properly understood both by him and by them, are inseparably connected with his own.

Whilst we pay a due tribute of gratitude and admiration to the firmness and magnanimity of our Allies, we feel an honest pride and satisfaction in reflecting, that they have themselves unanimously acknowledged how much they are indebted both to our exertions and to our example, and feel the full force of obligations, which none but great minds would so willingly admit. Their Generals, whose renown and achievements have been most conspicuous, are too just to deny, and too generous to envy, the transcendent merits of our illustrious Wellington, and are as anxious as ourselves to pay homage to his consummate skill in planning, his coolness in executing, and his modesty in allowing to his companions in arms, the merit of those successes which are chiefly owing to himself. The British nation is looked up to by others as the model of that manly submission to necessary privations, and that patience under difficulties, to which the successful result of the contest may, in a great degree, be ascribed. The energy and liberality of the British Cabinet confirmed the resolution of the wavering and enabled the well-disposed to act with promptitude and effect. We are no less grateful to your Royal Highness and to your advisers, for having persevered in the contest, until the usurper was overthrown, than for the