

pation in His distress, will continue to afford the Prince Leopold, under this afflicting dispensation, a source of high and great consolation.

I have the honour, &c.

“ Robert Gardiner.

“ Claremont, November 29, 1817.”

Unto His Serene Highness Leopold George Frederick, Duke of Saxe, Prince of Coburg of Saalfeld, &c. &c.

The condoling Address of the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Ayr, met in Presbytery.

SIR,

The sacred tie by which you were united to the British nation, supported by your personal character, has endeared you to British subjects for ever; and while we sincerely sympathise with all the members of the Royal Family, on the late fatal event, which has, by the unerring will of God, disappointed the eager hopes of the United Kingdom, we particularly offer our respectful condolence with your Serene Highness, on your personal distress in the irreparable loss of your amiable Consort and child.

That He who pours the healing balm into the wounded heart, may, through the mercy of Christ our Saviour, abundantly comfort your Serene Highness, and long preserve, bless, and prosper your illustrious line of Protestant Princes, are;

May it please your Serene Highness, the sincere and ardent prayers of his Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Ayr.

Signed in our name, in our presence, and at our appointment, at Ayr, this 19th day of November 1817, by Lewis Balfour, Moderator.

To which Address His Serene Highness was pleased to return the following Answer:

“ To the Rev. Lewis Balfour, Moderator, Ayr.

“ SIR,

“ I HAVE this day had the honour of presenting to the Prince Leopold the Address of the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Ayr, on the recent calamities at Claremont.

“ The Prince Leopold commands me to request you will convey to the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Ayr, His warmest acknowledgements for their affectionate solicitude in His severe affliction; and to assure them, that their prayers, uniting with the condolence and deep interest with which the country share his distress, have afforded, and will continue to him, a source of real and fervent consolation.

“ I have the honour, &c.

“ Robert Gardiner.

“ Claremont, November 29, 1817.”

To His Serene Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg.

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Inhabitants of the Borough of Tewkesbury, with feelings of the most unfeigned sorrow and regret, beg leave to offer to your Serene

Highness our heartfelt sympathy and condolence; for the very great and irreparable loss which your Serene Highness and this nation have sustained, in the lamented death of your most affectionate, amiable, and virtuous Consort, the late Princess Charlotte Augusta; whose mind seemed endowed with every qualification requisite for the maintenance of our religion, laws and constitution, and happily adapted to secure the welfare of the whole British empire.

In offering these our feelings of condolence, in the present most afflicted state of your Serene Highness's mind and health, we earnestly hope, that under the blessing of Divine Providence, your Serene Highness will speedily be restored to the uninterrupted enjoyment of health and tranquillity, and be thereby enabled to sustain the inexpressible calamity which this awful visitation has inflicted on your Serene Highness and the nation.

Signed, at the unanimous request of the Inhabitants, Thomas Vernon, High Bailiff.

To which Address His Serene Highness was pleased to return the following Answer:

“ To Thomas Vernon, Esq. High Bailiff, Tewkesbury.

“ SIR,

“ I have this day had the honour of presenting to the Prince Leopold, the Address of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Tewkesbury, on the late deplored events at Claremont,

“ The Prince Leopold commands me to request you will assure the Inhabitants of the Borough of Tewkesbury, with what a deep sense of their feeling and attachment He receives this Address, and how sensibly He must ever remember their unfeigned and earnest participation in His own, and in the country's sorrow.

“ I have the honour, &c.

“ Robert Gardiner.

“ Claremont, November 29, 1817.”

To His Serene Highness Leopold George Frederick, Duke of Saxe, Margrave of Meissen, Landgrave of Thuringuen, Prince of Cobourg of Saalfeld.

WE, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Magistrates, Gentry, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers, and other inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, approach your Serene Highness with our sincere expressions of condolence, on the melancholy decease of your Royal Consort the Princess Charlotte.

Lamenting as we do on our own account, the loss of a Princess to whom we had looked up with delight, as the pride of the House of Brunswick, and the future hope of our country; we assure your Serene Highness that we deplore with equal truth the deep affliction in which your Serene Highness has been plunged by this mournful event. We deeply sympathise with the sorrows of a Husband, deprived by this mysterious dispensation, of a Consort so justly, so dearly beloved, and we earnestly hope that the same Almighty Power which has ordained the calamity, will also administer support and comfort under its infliction.