

defamed, and the lower orders of society are insidiously and unwarily beguiled into the commission of the most daring and atrocious enormities.

While we feel guarded in our persons and property with the fullest enjoyment of rational liberty, while we see the strongest encouragement and incentives to virtuous industry, support and protection afforded to those around us who stand in need of it; we feel ourselves imperatively called upon to express to your Majesty the deep sense we entertain of these inestimable blessings, to offer to your Majesty this unequivocal testimony of our most zealous attachment and most dutiful regard, and to tender our best services for the maintenance of those civil and religious rights so inseparably connected and identified with the safety and preservation of the British Constitution.

Given under our common seal, at the Guildhall of the said Borough, the 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 1820.

[*Transmitted by the Earl of Brownlow.*]

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

The dutiful and loyal Address of the Inhabitants of Ashford, in the County of Kent.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

WE, the Inhabitants of Ashford, feel it incumbent on us to express our unshaken attachment to the Constitution and your Royal Person.

We cannot but lament that the first year of your Majesty's reign should have been marked with an increase of seditious and blasphemous publications, which threaten to overturn the institutions of our forefathers, and unless timely checked and resisted will we fear destroy the dearest rights and privileges of Englishmen, as they have widely propagated those loose principles and dangerous opinions that have been so pernicious in other countries, but which as yet have been so happily suppressed in our own.

We feel, Sir, that in the present state of the country silence may be considered as disloyalty, and supineness a crime, we therefore entreat your Majesty to accept this dutiful address, and to be assured that we will use our utmost endeavours to stem the torrent of profaneness and disobedience so prevalent in many parts of your Majesty's dominions, and that we have a deep abhorrence of every thing that has a tendency to lessen our veneration for the Legislature, the Altar, and the Throne.

We are convinced of the combination of impiety and sedition, and that the surest means of depriving us of our most valued birthrights are, to create disaffection to your Royal Person, to assert our freedom by licentiousness, or in any ways to encourage the wild spirit of the times.

We join, as we believe, a large majority of your Majesty's subjects in prayers to the Almighty, that your reign may be prosperous, and that your Majesty may transmit to your Successors the Constitution unimpaired, the Sceptre unsullied, and the people contented and happy, and devoted to the Crown.

[*Transmitted by Sir Edward Knatchbull, Bart.*]

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

WE, your Majesty's dutiful subjects, the Inhabitants of the Borough of Reading, being of opinion that existing circumstances demand from every loyal man an open declaration of his sentiments to your Majesty and to the country, most humbly beg to assure your Majesty of our unshaken fidelity to your Majesty's Person and Government, and of our steady attachment to the British Constitution.

We prize our liberty as highly as can any of our fellow subjects, but convinced that nothing would more certainly deprive us of that blessing than disobedience to the laws and to those who are constitutionally placed in authority over us, we have witnessed with grief and indignation the success of falsehood and revolutionary arts in deluding the uninformed and unwary, and the increasing audacity of a most malignant, irreligious and seditious press, which does not scruple to ascribe corruptness of motive and wickedness of design to all who are exalted in the State, and by the foulest slanders to excite, in the ignorant, hatred and contempt towards the sacred Person of your Majesty, the hereditary Counsellors of the Crown, and all that should command the reverence and affection of a free and religious people.

We are, therefore, determined to oppose these alarming evils, and to support our venerable and sacred institutions to the utmost of our power; and we trust that the same wisdom and firmness in your Majesty's councils, which, under Divine Providence, maintained the independence and the honour of our nation against the most appalling foreign force, will, with the united exertions of the loyal, preserve our Constitutional Monarchy inviolate, and defend our invaluable rights from intestine enemies.

*William Stephens, Mayor.*

[*Transmitted by the Rev. Dr. Wire, Vicar of S. Lawrence, Lancelot Austwick, Esq. and William Stone, Esq.*]

To the KING's Most Excellent Majesty.

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Gentlemen, Clergy, Merchants, Manufacturers and principal Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of Halifax, assembled at a general meeting called by the Constables for the purpose, in compliance with a requisition, beg leave again to tender to your Majesty those assurances of loyalty and fidelity which our duty and inclination lately induced us to offer to you on the happy accession of your Majesty to the Throne of your Ancestors.

At the moment when the blessings of peace ought to have healed and obliterated the miseries of contention, we lament to have seen rebellion and sedition waging an insidious and dangerous warfare against the vitals of the State.

We lament, Sir, to see a disappointed faction employing a corrupt and infamous press to blaspheme our God and revile our King, feeding and inflaming the worst passions of a deluded portion of the people, and thus endeavouring to seat itself on the ruins of the Throne and of the glorious Constitution of the British Empire.

We are afflicted, Sir, but not appalled, by this